

THE North-China Herald AND SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

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The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, FRIDAY, DEC. 17, 1897.

THE TIEN TSU HUI.

THE Report of the Natural Foot Society must have come as a great surprise to a large number of residents in China. They have felt undoubtedly that the establishment of the Society was rather what it is popular nowadays to call a "fad;" that foreigners could not hope to make any serious impression, however good their intentions, on a practice that has been in vogue for some twelve hundred years in the most conservative people in the world; and that even if the practice was as bad and cruel as it was represented to be, it was not the business of foreigners to interfere with it, nor were those who had taken up the subject likely to achieve any success. Some ridiculed, some commiserated what they thought the wasted energies of the movement; some even went so far as to hold that it was actually wrong to interfere at all in the matter.

But energy and conviction, rising superior to discouragements, have succeeded as they always will, and a really surprising success the Report of the Society records. With scanty means at their disposal, for the whole three years' work has been done at a cost of some £50 sterling, and in the face of often only half-hearted support in the ranks of their own committee, the organisers of the Society come before the world with what is really a triumph. A great element of their success has been that the Chinese, with whom some said they had no right to interfere, have welcomed their efforts. "Chinese literati" are writing anti-footbinding tracts, a Chinese Viceroy is circulating one with a preface of his own; a descendant of Confucius is collating and distributing our publications; the leading Chinese periodical is advocating our cause; an influential Chinese Anti-Footbinding Society is established in Shanghai; and, best of all, Chinese ladies of distinction are coming forward to found a school for girls of the upper classes, the first rule of which is that all who enter it must be unbound." The castle of old custom against whose massive walls it was thought the attack of so puny a foe as

the Tien Tsu Hui would be delivered in vain, and the invaders be forced to retire baffled and discomfited, is surrendering at the first challenge. Nothing is more noticeable in the Report than the letter of Kung Hui-chung, one of the lineal descendants of Confucius: "I have always had my unquiet thoughts about footbinding, and felt pity for the many sufferers. Yet I could not venture to say it publicly. Now there are happily certain benevolent gentlemen and virtuous daughters of ability, wise daughters from foreign lands, who have initiated a truly noble enterprise. They have addressed our women in animated exhortations, and founded a society for the prohibition of footbinding. They aim at extinguishing a pernicious custom." A descendant of the great Sage, a hereditary guardian of the ancient ways, must have felt very strongly before he would openly confess that he was glad to see "wise daughters from foreign lands" initiating a reform which he himself had not dared to advocate.

What a Moloch fashion is! For over a thousand years the cries of hundreds of thousands of suffering children, little girls in what should have been the happiest years of their lives, have been going up to heaven daily, and Chinese fathers and mother even though they loved their children have heard the cries unheeded because bound feet were fashionable, and to have large feet would stamp the girl when she grew up as a coolie, and no well-to-do man would marry her. It is not that Chinese fathers and mothers are any more hard-hearted than European parents. "Mr. Chao, the Suifu *hsioyuan* whose appeal has been the most largely circulated of all our tracts, only wrote it when, just after reading some of our literature, his heart was wrung by the wailings of his little daughter, whose feet were then beginning to be bound. (They are long ago unbound.)" It is because Chinese fathers and mothers are not hard-hearted that the castle is surrendering without a blow.

When we consider that millions of women not only go through frightful unnecessary suffering when they are young, but go on suffering and enfeebled the whole of their lives, from this senseless fashion, we realise that the work of the devoted organisers of the Tien Tsu Hui is of as notable a character as the abolition of Slavery, and the

founders of the Society will deserve to rank in history with the great abolitionists of England and America. In fact, the *Tien Tsu Hui* will liberate a larger number from a worse slavery than that of the negroes; and those who are liberated in China deserve more consideration because they are a more helpless people than the negroes were. That there has not been so much difficulty in China as there was with the negroes does not detract from the honour due to Mrs. Archibald Little and the ladies who have assisted her in this movement; and it is still more to their honour that they have achieved the success to which they can now point by steady work, by ever pushing forward, making way here a little and there a little, and with a very trifling expenditure of money. They have had so much success that they may now fairly expect to see their treasury kept full, and an impulse given to their propaganda which should have a result that no one would have considered possible three years ago.

We cannot do better than close our remarks with the eloquent words of Mr. Alford at the recent meeting of the Society, while seconding the vote of thanks to the Committee and Officers, to whose energy and devotion the future abolition of footbinding in China will be so largely due:—

"Of the callous who criticise this good work, who say it is not our business to interfere with or even suggest a reformation of what they call a national custom, I would ask—Have you ever seen a foot unbound after it has been bound for years? I have seen this sight, and shall not soon forget it. I do not need to be reminded of what was once a foot and had become an indescribable mass of unrecognisable flesh. It is the fact that few actually see these deformities that causes many to hesitate from joining this Society. Suppose for a moment that instead of laming girls for life by practically killing eight out of ten toes, the custom had been to amputate one foot, can it be supposed that with such ocular demonstration of pain, anyone, whether foreigner or Chinese, animated by the commonest feeling of humanity, would stand aloof and say this is not my affair? We are all apt to pass by on the other side, to shut our eye to painful sights we do not see an easy way to prevent, but let not those who have undertaken the good work be deterred—it is the necessity for their work which causes pain; it is the good work which they are doing which brings gladness; and as a simple but heartfelt acknowledgment of that good work, we, who can only share in the shadow of its reality, can, at least, record our opinion and tender the thanks conveyed by the resolution I have the honour to second."

The Society is working for the good of little children, and we know what is promised to those who help one of these little ones.

Summary of News.

The American mail of the 18th of November arrived here last night by the O. & O. Co.'s steamer *Coptic*.

The English mail of the 12th of November is expected here this afternoon by the P. & O. Co.'s steamer *Chusan*.

A MAIL leaves to-morrow morning for Europe by the M. M. Co.'s steamer *Ernest Simons*.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

SUPPLIED THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY
EXCLUSIVELY TO THE "NORTH-CHINA
DAILY NEWS."

THE INCREASE OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

London, 10th December.

Speaking at Edinburgh, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Secretary of State for War, sketched his army programme, according to which Great Britain required three Army Corps at home to repel invasion, with the ability to mobilise two for offensive service abroad; with ability to dispatch small bodies as required without mobilisation; and with ability to punctually supply India and the Colonies. The sketch included a proposal to re-group the infantry on a basis of four battalions instead of two, and to arrange for the re-engagement of a small number of Reservists annually, with extra pay, to be in readiness in case of operations which would not justify calling out the whole Reserve.

He hoped to provide the soldier with a clear shilling a day, and also to enlist some recruits for three years, with the option of entering the Reserve or remaining with the colours, and he was determined that the army should not be deficient in artillery.

THE NEW GERMAN STATION.

London, 11th December.

The correspondent of the *Times* at Peking states that Germany undertakes to evacuate Kiaochow and receives instead, as a coaling station, Samsah in Fukien.

[Samsah Inlet is on the coast of Fukien, some 35 miles north of the White Dogs.—Ed.]

COMING EVENTS IN CHINA.

An article in the *Times* on the German action implies that there will be a redistribution of the balance of power in the East, and recalls the British rights—under the Convention of 1846—to a group of islands at the mouth of the Yangtze, and it states that the time may come when Great Britain will have to claim them.

[In this Chusan is, of course, referred to.—Ed.]

A CONTRADICTION.

London, 13th December.

The *Times*' statement about Samsah is positively denied in Berlin.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

Reuter's correspondent in Peking wires that China has yielded practically all points, and that the Germans refuse to leave Kiaochow.

THE RECOVERY OF THE SOUDAN.

The Right Hon. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking at Bristol, stated that the Egyptian force will be in due time advanced to Khartoum, and that the Government, if necessary, will ask Parliament to aid Egypt in the achievement of that task.

THE TROUBLE IN WEST AFRICA.

Major Jenkinson occupied Bona without opposition on the 17th of November. The French claim Bona as their hinterland.

THE WEST AFRICAN DISPUTE.

London, 14th December.

It is understood that an interview between the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Baron Alphonse de Courcel, French Ambassador in London, has distinctly facilitated the settlement of affairs in West Africa.

THE GERMAN SPECIAL SQUADRON FOR CHINA.

The Emperor William is going to Kiel to bid farewell to Prince Henry of Prussia, who proceeds to China with the squadron sailing on the 16th of December.

THE CABINET CRISIS IN ITALY.

The Marquis di Rudini, Italian Premier, has informed the King that he is unable to reconstruct the Cabinet.

THE GREAT STRIKE OF ENGINEERS.

In a ballot of the striking engineers ninety-five per cent rejected the masters' proposals.

PUBLIC FEELING IN RUSSIA RE KIAOCHOW.

London, 15th December.

The Russian Press is profoundly dissatisfied with Germany's action in China, but the Government remains impassive.

NEWS CONFIRMED.

Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Hobart Seymour, K.C.B., succeeds Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Buller, K.C.B., as Commander-in-Chief on the China Station.

THE FRONTIER FIGHTING IN INDIA.

London, 16th December.

The Brigades composing General Sir William Lockhart's force have had very severe fighting with the Afidis since the capture of Dargai, and have met with heavy casualties, principally owing to night attacks on the rear-guard and the baggage trains. Lieutenant West of the Ghoorikas was killed, and the wounded include Captain Norrie and Lieutenant Champain of the Ghoorikas, and Captain Shortt of the Scots Fusiliers.

THE FRENCH SOUDAN EXPEDITION.

An official despatch denies the massacre of the expedition under Major Marchand which was reported recently as having taken place in the Bahr-El-Ghazal.

STODDART'S ELEVEN IN AUSTRALIA.

In a test cricket match held at Sydney, Mr. Stoddart's Eleven were put out for 551 runs, of which Prince Ranjitsinhji made 175. The Australian Eleven were out for 237 runs and followed on, making 126 runs for one wicket.

THE Director of Sicauei Observatory reports: Friday, 10th December 10 a.m. *State of the atmosphere on the 9th.*—The depression passes over the Yellow Sea and travels towards Corea and the Sea of Japan. Mild and calm weather with breezes increasing slowly in the evening at Shanghai. The high pressures over Siberia spreading E. and S.E. *State on the morning of the 10th.*—The N. wind springs up and blows with much force during the night and the weather becomes overcast. Rapid rise of the barometer. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Cold weather, which may clear up. Strong N.E. to N.W. winds in the N. Rough weather on the coast, as well as between China and Japan. The monsoon will also freshen considerably in the S.—Saturday, 11th December, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 10th.*—The high pressures creep down to China from the N.W. The depression traverses the Sea of Japan. Very strong N. to N.W. breezes on the entire coast N. of Shanghai.—*State on the morning of the 11th.*—Fairly sharp cold and strong N.W. winds, with a very rapid barometric rise. Sunday, 12th December, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 11th.*—Very high pressures over the N. of China and deep depression to the E. of Japan. Fresh monsoon in the S. Fine weather and sharp cold in Shanghai. *State on the morning of the 12th.*—Clear and cold night (minimum 21° F.). Fine and quiet weather. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Fine and cold weather. Moderate to fresh N.E. to N.W. breezes along the entire coast.—Monday, 13th December, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 12th.*—Pressures continue high over Northern and Central China and low in the Pacific, E. of the Philippines, but the barometer falls in China and rises at Japan. Fine weather. *State on the morning of the 13th.*—The barometric fall continues at Shanghai. Overcast and calm weather.—*Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Unsettled weather, still liable to rain and snow. Moderate to fresh N. W. to N. E. monsoon along the S. coast; moderate N. W. breezes in the N.—Tuesday, 14th December, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 13th.*—A depression formed near the mouth of the Yangtze occasioned rain mingled with flakes of snow in the afternoon. Barometric fall along almost the entire coast. *State on the morning of the 14th.*—The depression moves away eastward and the barometer rises rapidly. The weather clears up. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Fine and cold weather. Moderate winds from N.W. over the N. coast and from N. to N.E. in the S.—Wednesday, 15th December, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 14th.*—Pressures continue very high over China, and the depression disperses over the E. of Japan. Fresh monsoon and fine weather. *State on the morning of the 15th.*—Fine, cold, and quiet weather. Barometer above the average. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Continuation of fine and cold weather. Fresh N.W. breezes over the N. coast; moderate to fresh monsoon in the S.—Thursday, 16th December, 10 a.m. *State of the atmosphere on the 15th.*—The situation continues the same; pressure decreasing gradually from N.W. to S.E. Very high barometer at Tientsin, 30.76 in. (781 mm. 2). Fine weather. *State on the morning of the 16th.*—Fine and cold

weather. Barometer above the average. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Cold and rather fine weather, but liable to change. Fresh N. to N.W. breezes over the N. coast; fresh N.E. monsoon in the S.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK.

(Thermometers in the open air in a shaded situation in the English Settlement.)

1897.				
		Fahr. Thermometer.		Rainfall in inches.
		Min.	Max.	
Dec.	10	42° 6	47° 7	.....
"	11	30° 0	36° 1	.....
"	12	25° 2	40° 0	.....
"	13	35° 0	42° 7	0.10
"	14	33° 3	43° 1	.....
"	15	28° 7	44° 0	.....
"	16	30° 6	40° 0	.....

1896.				
		Fahr. Thermometer.		Rainfall in inches.
		Min.	Max.	
Dec.	10	44° 0	62° 2	.....
"	11	46° 1	60° 0	.....
"	12	45° 0	58° 2	.....
"	13	45° 0	55° 7	.....
"	14	40° 2	54° 4	.....
"	15	43° 0	55° 7	0.07
"	16	39° 3	57° 3	.....

TELEGRAPHIC information has been received from the Foreign Office stating that the separation of the Chief Judgeship of the Supreme Court here from the Consulship-General is to come into effect on the arrival of Mr. G. Jamieson, C.M.G., who is appointed Consul-General, and is due here by the incoming German Mail.

SIR CLAUDE MACDONALD had an audience with the Emperor on Wednesday at which he expressed the thanks of H.M. Queen Victoria for the Emperor's recognition of her Jubilee. The ceremony was very imposing, and everything passed off very smoothly.

THE Germans had agreed to evacuate Kiaochow forthwith, without insisting on being given a permanent coaling-station, if, as was at one time understood they did, the Chinese agreed to the reparation that Germany demanded. Complications, however, have now arisen which, it is feared, threaten to postpone indefinitely the German evacuation. The Chinese seem not to have realised the advisability of agreeing with their adversary quickly while they had the opportunity.

THERE is again a report that the services of the German officers now employed with the troops at Woosung are to be dispensed with.

THE Germans are evidently not contemplating a very early evacuation of Kiaochow Bay, for we learn that they have sent to Formosa for artesian well borers.

ACCORDING to native reports Mr. Gervase Cooke having recently found a rich copper lode in a district belonging to the prefecture of Shinanfu, Hupeh, the gentry and notables of that city have petitioned Viceroy Chang to be allowed to develop the place and H.E. has given his permission for the formation of a syndicate for that purpose.

TWENTY-SIX thousand dollars are to be spent on the erection of a British Consulate at Chungking, and \$85,000 on a summer residence for the British Minister at Peking.

At a Committee Meeting of the Shanghai Skating Club, Sir Nicholas Hannen was elected Chairman, Mr. R. W. Heidorn Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. J. M. E. Machado Hon. Secretary.

A REGULAR meeting of the Royal Sussex Lodge, 501 E. C., was held on Tuesday

evening to perform the ceremony of installation of the Worshipful Master and officers for the ensuing year. Amongst those present were R. W. Bro. L. Moore, D. G. M. of Northern China, R. W. Bro. C. Thorne, P. D. G. M. of N. China, R. W. Bro. A. W. Danforth, D. G. M. for China, Massachusetts Constitution, and Wor. Bro. Anderson, D. P. D. G. M. of N. China, and officers of D. G. Lodge, also Wor. Bro. S. H. Shorrocks, Provincial Grand Treasurer of East Lincolnshire. The ceremony was performed by R. Wor. Bro. Lewis Moore, D. G. M., and R. Wor. Bro. C. Thorne, P. D. G. M., and the following officers were invested:—

Wor. Bro. A. Ommundsen.....	W.M.
" " M. S. Joseph	I.P.M.
" " M. A. Sopher	S.W.
" " S. R. Gale	J.W.
" " B. P. Lalca	Treas.
" " R. Ord	Sec.
" " A. Madar	S.D.
" " R. Y. Barry	J.D.
" " A. Wilson	Di. Cor.
" " J. P. Nevall	J.G.
" " J. R. Michael	Steward.
" " D. Campbell	"
" " J. E. Lemière	Organist.
" " J. Gould	Tyler.

After the ceremony the W.M. invited all brethren present to partake of refreshments, which were done ample justice to, and the usual Masonic toasts were duly honoured. During the evening several vocal and instrumental numbers were rendered by some of the brethren present.

WE learn from Kiukiang under date the 13th inst. that two of the priests arrested by the Chinese authorities in connection with the Russian land purchase in the Kiukiang mountains have died under their tortures. There are three more in prison and they will all most likely shortly die if relief is not given them. The Russians do not seem to be doing anything for them.

The Chinese authorities still refuse to stamp the Russian deed as the sale was a fraudulent one. The land there belongs to 48 clans and the priest who gave the deed had no authority whatever to do so.

CAPTAIN WADDELOVE, one of the best known and most popular shipmasters on the China coast, committed suicide by cutting his throat in Yokohama, on the 8th inst. At the inquest held on the following day the jury returned a verdict of "suicide whilst temporarily insane." Captain Waddelove had left the service of the Indo-China S.N. Co., which he entered in 1880, having been promoted to master in 1883. He leaves a family.

THREE somewhat serious accidents occurred on Sunday in cross-country riding, Mr. W. J. N. Dyer sustaining an injury to his hip; Mr. R. Macgregor breaking his arm; and Mr. A. Andersen dislocating his shoulder.

CONSIDERABLE excitement was caused in the neighbourhood of the Gardens shortly after noon yesterday by a man named Gamble, formerly in the police force, jumping off the bridge into the Soochow Creek. P.C. 42, who was fortunately on the spot, obtained a sampan and with some trouble succeeded in rescuing the would-be suicide in a very exhausted condition and conveyed him to the Hongkong Police station, from whence he was sent to the General Hospital. No serious consequences are apprehended, though he is suffering from the shock.

THE *Satsuma Maru* on Tuesday brought silver to the value of £135,000, and the *Coptic* his arrived to increase this relief to our money market by something over £100,000.

A FIRE broke out in the Scutching room of the Alpha Farm Cotton Mill at about 11 o'clock on Wednesday night. The mill is fortunately fitted with a complete installation of Grinnell Sprinklers, fourteen of which opened automatically and extingui-

ished the fire in something less than half-an-hour. The damage done was trifling.

SEVERAL attempts at incendiarism by rowdies are reported from Hankow, but fortunately the fires were extinguished before serious damage had been done.

THE news that the Belgian loan is now an accomplished fact is confirmed; and we learn that the Tsungli Yamèn, which had previously only given its consent to the loan being made, has now arranged to guarantee it in the event of any failure of the original plan of security.

A NATIVE steamboat company whose vessels are to run between Wuchang, Hankow, Shusi, and Ichang (all cities in Hupeh province) has been inaugurated under the patronage of H.E. the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, with a capital of Tls. 100,000.

A TELEGRAM from Viceroy Liu of Nanking was received by the local mandarins on Saturday calling upon them to enroll volunteer battalions for protection against the rowdy element who may take advantage of the excitement arising from the Kiaochow imbroglio to plunder the inland villages and towns.

ACCORDING to native reports, the head runner of the Mixed Court, named Lien Shêng, committed suicide in the small temple connected with the Mixed Court on Sunday evening. It is said that he recently became insane owing to a chastisement he received from the magistrate for neglect of duty and the threat to dismiss him from the *yamèn*.

It is rumoured in native official circles that H.E. T'an Pih-li, Junior Guardian of the Heir Apparent and Provincial Commander-in-chief of Lower Kiangsu, intends to resign his post at Sungkiang "owing to the feeble health of his mother who is over eighty years of age." The uncertainty of the present crisis will probably cause many more "fair-weather mandarins" to apply for a similar privilege.

ONE portion of the German conditions has already been observed, for by an edict of the 11th instant Li Ping-hêng has been commanded to resign his post of Viceroy of Szechuan to which he had been appointed prior to the murder of the two German priests, and Yü Lu, the present Tartar General of Foochow and High Commissioner of the Foochow Arsenal, is appointed instead.

A DISPATCH was received on Saturday by the local mandarins from Chinanfu reporting the arrival in that city from Peking of H. E. Chang Ju-mei, Governor-elect of Shantung, on the 30th ult. and the taking over his seals of office from Li Ping-hêng on the 1st instant.

Another despatch from Peking states that the throne has appointed Prince Ching, and their excellencies Li Hung-chang and Chang Ying-huan as Commissioners to arrange with Baron von Heyking as to the German demands.

It appears that some natives have lately taken advantage of the new Imperial Post to send anonymous letters accusing their enemies to the Mixed Court magistrate, Mr. Chang. As anonymous writings are prohibited by law, Mr. Chang issued on Tuesday a proclamation warning people from breaking the law in this manner, and telling the people of this district that if they have really substantial proofs to be brought forward against any breaker of the law in Shanghai, he is quite willing to receive their statements and investigate them.

THE following interchanges amongst Provincial Treasurers have been ordered by an Imperial edict of the 12th instant:—Wang Chih-ch'un of Hupeh is transferred to Szechuan; Yü Ch'ang (Manchu) of Szechuan to Chihli; and Yuan Fêng-lin of Chihli is transferred to Hupeh. Yü Ch'ang, the former Provincial Treasurer of Szechuan, being a younger brother of Yü Lu, the newly appointed Viceroy of Sze-

chuan, has necessitated the former's transference to another province according to the laws of the present dynasty.

THE Chinese Imperial Post, in its Notification No. 26, describes the system just introduced by which the public can make a remittance to or from any place where there is an Imperial Post Office. The remitter must pay in clean dollars and get a certificate sealed, signed, and dated by the Postmaster, for which he pays two cents per dollar, or 2 per cent. Clean stamps are put on the certificate for the amount of the remittance, and are to be redeemed at face value at the Post Office addressed. No certificate is to be for more than \$10, but one applicant may have any number of certificates. They are payable at sight and to bearer, and must be presented within six months from the date of issue.

A TIENTSIN despatch reports the return to that port on the 2nd instant of General Nieh, Provincial Commander-in-chief of Chihli, from crushing the recent insurrection of secret society men, disbanded soldiery, and banditti near Pingch'uan-chou, just beyond the Great Wall, which at one time almost endangered the safety of the city of Jêho. The insurrection began in September last, and at first the Imperial troops appeared to have been defeated. General Nieh and his foreign-modelled corps of 15,000 men were then appealed to for aid by the Manchu Military Governor of Jêho, and it was only recently crushed by the capture and decapitation of the principal leaders of the insurrection and the dispersing of their followers—until the next time.

A TIENTSIN despatch reports the arrival there lately of the Chinese torpedo cruiser *Feiyin* with General Wang and staff who had been to Japan as guests of the Japanese Government to see the army manoeuvres in Kiushiu. General Wang, it is said, will make a most laudatory report to the Ministry of War on the result of his observations and strongly advocate that China should follow in the footsteps of Japan, even to the engagement of Japanese coadjutors to help in the reform of the Chinese army. The General says that as the Japanese and Chinese are of one race it will be safer to trust to Japanese than to Western nations, especially as it is to the interest of Japan to have a strong China by her side in times of emergency.

NATIVE dispatches received from Chefoo report that the Germans have also occupied the city of Chimô, some distance from the city of Kiaochow on the mainland, which they entered on pretext of calling upon the district magistrate, and that their outposts on the 3rd instant were as far as the hamlet of Nûkuk'ou, on the Kiao river. The territory occupied by the Germans is estimated at something approaching three or four hundred square miles so far. At Nûkuk'ou there is a likin station which has also been taken possession of by the Germans who have also begun collecting taxes on imported and exported goods. The brigade of General Chang Kao-yuan has been ordered by an edict of the 2nd instant to make a retrograde movement to Chefoo in order to prevent any conflict with the Germans.

A NATIVE telegram received from Peking reports that the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung has energetically protested to the Throne against granting the German demands, and he especially protests against the dismissal of ex-Governor Li Ping-hêng, whom he declares to have been in no wise to blame in the matter of the recent murder of the German priests. He fears that if Li Ping-hêng be dismissed the other Viceroys and Governors will resent the injustice done to their colleague. The Viceroy further declares that the people are loyal to the Throne and only lack the men to lead them. In view of this H.E. offers himself as one of several high officials of the Empire who

will be willing to lay down their lives, if necessary, for the dynasty. Report goes on to say that the Emperor dropped some tears upon reading Viceroy Chang's memorial and looked questioningly at the members of the Grand Council around him, hoping for some one to back the Viceroy Chang's words, but no-one opened his mouth, while every eye was bent to the ground as if afraid to catch the Sovereign's gaze.

A DISPATCH from Peking states that two *Djiggits*, or Cossack couriers, in charge of Russian mail matter for the Legation at the capital, were attacked by a gang of bandits on the way from T'ungchou to Peking in broad daylight. The Cossacks opened fire upon their assailants and wounded two, whereupon the rest decamped. It appeared that the bandits had been on the track of a Tientsin trader who had with him several boxes of sycee. The man learning at T'ungchou that he was tracked, escaped by a ruse, and the robbers seeing the Cossacks' cart mistook it for their intended victim's vehicle, with the above result. The *tipao* of the ward where the attempted robbery took place failed to report the affair to his superior, the sub-prefect of T'ungchou, who was naturally ignorant of the whole thing until the Tsungli Yamèn, which had been informed by the members of the Russian Legation, wrote to the Taotai and ordered the punishment of the local officials. The result was that the *tipao* received 1,000 blows and the sub-prefect had a black mark recorded against him.

THE annual preliminary examinations for the licentiate or *hsiu-ts'ai* degree for the district of Shanghai took place in the Chingyi College, native city, on Thursday last before Mr. Huang, the Shanghai district magistrate, and Mr. Hsien, the district director of studies. Two hundred and sixty-five students competed but not quite one-half have been lucky enough to pass the qualification necessary to enable them to present themselves next week at Sungkiang for the prefectural examinations, where these students will have to compete with the chosen ones of the other five districts which belong to Sungkiang prefecture. Another weeding will then take place before the examining prefect, and only those who come successfully out of this second ordeal will be privileged to compete at the third or final examination which is held before the Literary Chancellor in the same city. The men chosen out of this examination will then have the privilege of being called *hsiu-ts'ai* or licentiates. Of late years Shanghai has been able to count about a dozen or ten licentiates at each of these annual competitions, whereas the average in previous years was only about four or five.

AMONG recent publications from this office to which we feel nevertheless justified in calling the attention of our readers is *The China Coaster's Tidal Manual*, being a *Handy Book of Tides and Nautical Miscellany for the Principal Ports on the China Coast for 1898*, by Mr. G. Gundry, the well-known Licensed Pilot. In this little pocket-book, well bound in leather, with pencil and pocket, extending to about 150 pages, is contained a mass of indispensable information for the mariner on the coast of China on signals, with seven pages of coloured flags, etc.; on the rising and setting of the sun and moon, with the astronomical and civil twilight; and tide tables for the different ports with judicious remarks. Then there are brief notices of the principal ports, distance tables, a summary of lights, buoys, and beacons on the coast, remarks on the aberrations of fog signals, and odds and ends of useful information, with a list of the Shanghai licensed pilots, and 12 pages for memoranda. The information is brought up to the latest date by means of insets, and there is a short table of errata, with trifling correc-

tions which the buyer of the book is advised to make in the text at once. Altogether, it is a very practical and convenient little work.

Then we have the *Anglo-Chinese Date Book for 1898*, a convenience first introduced by the late Mr. J. B. Tootal, and which he used to be so proud to announce as the "Ruddy Old Book." It gives in black and red the date in English and Chinese by both calendars for every day in the year, and is so well-known all over the Far East, that we have little more to do than to announce its publication as usual.

We have received the November issue of the *Chung Li Kiao Hwei Pao*, a Missionary Review. It is published by the Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge.

We have received from Messrs. Fearon, Daniel & Co., agents of the Pacific Mail and Occidental and Oriental S. S. Companies, a fine wall map of the United States, showing the San Francisco Overland Route; from Messrs. W. Robinson & Co. a cardboard folding foot-rule; from Messrs. Dunning & Co. a handy little calendar; and from Messrs. J. W. Gande & Co. a number of most convenient little date blocks in various colours.

THE marked superiority of French taste over English in the designing of almanacs is shown in the calendars made for Mr. E. L. Mondon by L. Bord of Marseilles. They are really charming pictures, beautifully executed, and Mr. Mondon is to be congratulated on his enterprise in ornamenting our houses with such graceful drawings.

MR. J. Gaillard Jeune has sent us two pretty French wall calendars for 1898.

MESSRS. Arnold, Karberg & Co., the local agents, have sent us two useful calendars for 1898 issued by the Lancashire Insurance Co., and the South British Fire and Marine Insurance Co.

MESSRS. Lane, Crawford & Co. have sent us a couple of wall almanacs for 1898, one decorated with a capital coloured picture of a race between the *Britannia* and the *Vigilant*; the other a hunting scene, with a very recognisable portrait of the present Master of the Paper Hunt in the foreground.

FROM Messrs. Caldbeck, Macgregor & Co. we have received a handsome moveable calendar on a metallic frame, on which the branches and agencies of this widely extended firm are set forth in gold on a chocolate ground.

WE have received from the Chinese Imperial Post a copy of Notification No. 25, giving the rules relating to Registered Mail Matter.

At the Mixed Court on Saturday a coolie was charged with burglariously entering the residence of Señor H. de Uriarte, Spanish Consul-General, and stealing silver, etc., to the value of \$135, on the previous morning. The attention of a native police sergeant was drawn to the prisoner by his bulky appearance, and he was apprehended and searched, with the result that the stolen property was found on him. He was ordered to be cangued outside the house, and to undergo three months' imprisonment.

At the Mixed Court on Tuesday a native soldier was charged with stealing a deposit note for 8,000 marks from a German gentleman at Woosung. The prisoner went to the Imperial Bank of China and attempted to cash the note, but was informed that it was only negotiable at the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank. He presented the note at the latter Bank and was given into custody, notice having been given of the loss of the document. He was remanded until Saturday. Two coolies were charged with breaking open a box of dollars in transit and stealing \$100. The money having been recovered, one was given 300 blows and the other 200.

At the Mixed Court on Wednesday a man was charged with being concerned with others in stealing two baulks of cedar, valued at \$100, from the Shanghai Engineering and Shipbuilding Co.'s dock at Pootung. He was sentenced to seven weeks' imprisonment. A houseboat *laoda* was charged with appropriating \$3 belonging to his employer and with inciting six boat coolies to leave the boat at Jessfield. He was ordered to pay a fine of \$10.

A RATHER amusing case, illustrating "ways that are dark," etc., came before the Mixed Court yesterday morning when Inspector Mellows, of the River Police, charged two men with stealing coal from a boat. The coal was destined for one of the cotton mills at Yangtzepoo, but on the mill people being requested to prosecute the offenders, they replied that it was no concern of theirs, as the coal had not been delivered and they only paid for what they received. The coal merchants were then asked to prosecute, but said the matter was no concern of theirs, as the coal was given to a middleman to deliver to the mill, and any shortage had to be paid for by him. The middleman was found, and also declined to prosecute, on the ground that if he appeared he would be unable to get men to work for him. The real reason for his refusal to prosecute, however, appeared to be this. The coal in question was supplied to the mill under an old contract at a very much lower rate than the one at present ruling, and the middleman had taken advantage of this for a little speculation on his own account. He was in the habit of delivering the various consignments of coal a considerable quantity short, for which he had to pay at the contract rate, but as it had been sold at current market rates this left a handsome margin of profit. In the end the Court took the prosecution into its own hands and fined one defendant \$1 and the other 50 cents.

At the Mixed Court yesterday a shroff in the employ of a foreign firm was charged with misappropriating \$683. He was ordered to be imprisoned until the money is refunded.

ORDERS were received by wire on Saturday by H.M.S. *Pique* to proceed at once to Woosung and await further telegraphic instructions. She left her moorings accordingly at 0.30 p.m. on Sunday, greatly to the regret of the numerous friends whom her captain and officers have made at Shanghai.

THE German cruiser *Kaiserin Augusta* is due in Singapore on Wednesday. The *Gefion*, 4,200 tons, is expected here by the end of January. H.M.S. *Undaunted* arrived at Kiaochow on the 8th inst., and left again on the 10th.

THE following is the German fleet now in these waters which Prince Henry's squadron is coming to reinforce:—

Ship.	Tons.	Speed.	Guns.	Men.
<i>Kaiser</i>	7,531	14.6	24	668
<i>Kaiserin Augusta</i>	6,331	22.5	20	427
<i>Gefion</i>	4,207	20.0	24	312
<i>Irene</i>	4,400	19.8	18	358
<i>Prinzess Wilhelm</i>	4,400	18.7	18	358
<i>Arcona</i>	2,373	14.0	14	267
<i>Cormoran</i>	1,640	16.0	8	115
<i>Meteor</i>	946	21.0	2	90

Total.....31,828 128 2,595

H.M.S. *Powerful* arrived at Simon's Town on the 30th of October on her way to China, and was to leave on the 9th ult.

THE *Prinz Heinrich*, with the German mail of the 15th ult., arrived in Hongkong yesterday morning, and is expected to leave for Shanghai to-morrow afternoon. The mails are being brought on by the *Peru*.

THE Messageries steamers are again to call at Nagasaki both outward and homeward; but their doing so is optional not compulsory.

THE P. & O. steamer *Chusan*, with the incoming English mail, left Hongkong on Tuesday morning, at 10 o'clock for Shanghai. She brings 782 chests of Malwa opium.

THE M.M. steamer *Laos*, with the French mail of the 20th of November, left Singapore for Shanghai on Tuesday at 4 p.m.

THE R.M.S. *Empress of India* arrived at Vancouver on Wednesday at 4.30 a.m.

THE U.S.M. steamer *Peru* left Hongkong yesterday at 1 p.m. and is expected to arrive at Woosung on Sunday afternoon. She will be dispatched for San Francisco via Nagasaki, Kobe, Yokohama, and Honolulu on Monday, the 20th inst.

THE P. & O. Company have sold their mail-steamer *Mirapora* to an Indian steamship owner, and she will probably be hereafter employed in the carriage of pilgrims.

THE silk that was shipped by the steamship *Galic* arrived at New York on the 5th inst.

THE demand for large and fast steamers on the Atlantic is evidently not yet satisfied, and the North-German Lloyd steamers *Spree* and *Havel*, which were built only seven years ago, are to be lengthened 65 feet, and to be provided each with three additional double-ended boilers and two new sets of engines, giving them each 18,000 indicated horse-power.

THE *Taiwan*, from Nagasaki, reports having experienced moderate to strong northerly winds, with overcast, squally weather, and high northerly sea on the passage.

A RATHER remarkable and almost unique fact in connection with the harbour is that there is not a single foreign sailing vessel, either fore-and-aft or square-rigged, at present in Shanghai, exclusive, of course, of pilot boats.

WE have received Hongkong papers to the 8th inst.—Mr. Dunlop, second engineer of the s.s. *Elphinstone*, while bathing in Dutch Borneo on the 4th ult., was carried off by a crocodile.—There has been very bad weather in the China Sea. The *Port Adelaide* was 16 days, the *Kutsang* 12 days, and the *Orestes* 10 days, from Singapore to Hongkong.—Mr. Frank Lincoln, the monologist, had arrived in Hongkong and was to give two entertainments.—Bishop and Mrs. Burdon are returning to missionary work in China; no appointment has yet been made to the See of Victoria.

THE *Hongkong Daily Press* has the following special telegrams:—

Singapore, 6th December.

The Governor of the Straits Settlements telegraphed to the Consul at Amoy asking for the release of a Straits-born Chinaman incarcerated in a native prison in China while travelling with a Straits passport.

The Consul replies that the Minister refuses protection because the Straits-born man had not registered at the Consulate until after the suit in which he is concerned had begun.

7th December.

The Governor of the Straits Settlements wired to-day to the Minister protesting against the latter's decision in refusing protection of the Straits-born Chinaman incarcerated in a native prison in China while travelling with a Straits passport. The Governor asks for the Chinaman's release.

THE *Hongkong Daily Press* says that the date of the departure of H.E. the Governor has been definitely fixed for the 1st of February, which its readers will regret to note is a month earlier than had been anticipated. The Hongkong community will consequently not have the pleasure of His Excellency's company at the Races.

MR. J. J. FRANCIS, q.c., who is commonly supposed to be able to do what he likes in Court at Hongkong, was sharply brought up by the Chief Justice in the

Synagogue case on the 7th inst. The *Hongkong Daily Press* report says:—

Mr. Pollock was proceeding to ask another question when Mr. Francis interrupted.

His Lordship—Mr. Francis, you really must not interrupt. Considerable latitude is given to counsel in cross-examination and you always exercise it to the full. It is a very bad practice you have of interrupting and it is most unfair and prejudicial to the parties.

Mr. Francis—But, my Lord, I have a right—

His Lordship—Pardon me, Mr. Francis. The only right you have is that in case of anything improper being done in the examination in chief you can appeal to the Court.

Mr. Francis—Then I shall have to appeal to the Court every moment, my Lord.

His Lordship—Nothing improper is being done now. You want your point brought out and you will not wait.

Mr. Francis—I did not want my point brought out at once. I simply wanted the point made clear. I want a sensible question to be asked.

His Lordship—You have a very bad habit of intervening and I have spoken to you about it before.

Mr. Francis—It is simply in aid of the Court, my Lord.

His Lordship—It produces ill temper and interrupts the business of the Court.

Mr. Francis—I am sorry your Lordship thinks so.

His Lordship—Please do not interrupt again. You exercise your right in cross-examination very fully.

We have received Corea and Japan papers with dates from Seoul to the 4th, Tokio the 6th, Yokohama the 7th, Kobe the 9th, and Nagasaki the 11th inst.—The Corean government is thinking of re-dressing the people. The civil officials are to wear red, the military blue, and the intermediary (whoever they are) purple.—The Russian flag ship, two cruisers, and two gunboats arrived at Chemulpo from Vladivostok on the 28th ult.—It was rumoured in Seoul that Mr. Dmitrevsky, Russian Consul-General here, would be made *Chargé d'Affaires* in Corea.—The new Japanese battleship *Yashima* arrived at Yokohama on the 30th ult.—Baron Mitsukuri, President of the Administrative Litigation Court, died on the 29th ult.—It was expected that the new treaties with both Austria and France would be promptly signed.—The market value of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's stock has fallen from 17,160,000 yen on the 1st of December, 1896, to 13,200,000 yen.—Willison's Circus opened in Yokohama on the 2nd inst.—The steamer *Toyohashi Maru*, of 2,878 tons gross and 650 horse-power, has been bought by the Japanese Admiralty and is now the cruiser *Toyohashi Kan*. She was formerly the *Flintshire*.—The "Hawaiian" steamer *China* of the P.M. Co. made the last run from Kobe to Yokohama in 20 hours 14 mins.—An unimportant fire took place on the steamer *Lombard* at Kobe on the 1st.—The work of doubling the Tokaido railway is to be completed before the end of 1900.—In the U.S. Consular Court at Yokohama on the 6th inst., judgment for \$16,727.69 and costs was given for the plaintiffs in an undefended suit brought by the National Bank of China, Ltd., v. Macondray Bros. and Lockard.—The last brick was laid on the walls of the Nagasaki Hotel on the 7th.—The *Vladimir*, wrecked some months ago near Possiet, has been sold to a Japanese merchant of Vladivostok, who hopes to raise her.

The following telegrams are from the *Kobe Chronicle*:—

Tokio, 3rd December.

The Tokio Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association have appointed a committee of 20 members to investigate

the economical situation of the Empire and the policy to be adopted in future, also to enquire of Count Matsukata what the Government intends to do in the present crisis.

4th December.

The Government has definitely decided to repeal the Raw Silk Export Encouragement Law, and a Bill for this purpose will be brought forward at the approaching Session of the Diet.

Yayeyama, Loochoo, 5th December.

The *Tanslet* (?), a Norwegian steamer, has stranded in this neighbourhood, and has sprung a leak. Assistance is being sent.

Tokio, 5th December.

In reply to the deputation from the Tokio Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association, Count Matsukata said that any reduction of the administrative expenditure was at present impossible. The Government expected to accomplish the revision of Treaties with all the Powers before the end of the year, which would improve the position by increasing the revenue derived from Customs duties. As to encouraging the introduction of foreign capital, he contemplated permitting foreigners to hold shares in Japanese companies. Count Matsukata added that the Government proposed to issue a domestic loan of small face value (say 20 to 50 yen) to encourage the investment of small capital. It was promised that a formal reply would be given to the deputation in writing.

6th December.

A telegram has been received by the Government, announcing that the new Treaty between Japan and Austria-Hungary was signed at Vienna yesterday, the 5th inst.

Three *soshi*, Horikawa Chotaro, Kishi Seichi, and Takekawa Masao, are reported to have conspired to assassinate Viscount Takashima, the Minister for War, by throwing explosive bombs into his carriage on the occasion of his visiting the Shibunkai, Kanda, Tokio. The plot was discovered by the Kanda police a day or two ago, and three of the alleged conspirators were arrested. A bomb was seized in the house of Horikawa.

Seoul, 8th December.

It is reported that the Corean Minister for Foreign Affairs has applied to the French Minister in Seoul for the engagement of a French subject, at an annual salary of 6,000 yen, to develop industrialism and train the Coreans in industrial work.

The *Japan Times* says in a late issue:—"According to a recent report, our merchants in Shanghai, who had hitherto conducted business on their own account, have joined in a scheme with a view to establishing a Joint-stock Company to gain control of the China-Japan trade, now monopolised by the Chinese. The proposed company is to have its head office in Shanghai, and branches in Osaka and Kobe. Those who are to take charge of the branch offices have already come back to Japan, and they are busily engaged in forwarding the plan."

The *Japan Mail* says that "Some of the promoters of the Tōyō Kisen Kaisha, Oriental Steamship Company, are now desirous of dissolving the Company, having learned that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has lost heavily on its foreign services, no dividend having been declared for the past six months, while the Kansai Steamship Company has become bankrupt, and several smaller steamship companies are in great difficulties." This is the company that is now building steamers in England to run across the Pacific in conjunction with the P. M. and O. & O. lines.

The Japan newspapers contain long accounts of a daring robbery that took place in Sendai in October, 1890. The Rev. W. E. Hoy was the victim, and in a letter published at the end of September

last in the *Christian World* he tells the story, as follows:—

Sendai, Japan, May 19th, 1897.

Dear Dr. Callender.—Your sympathetic letter of April 22nd reached me this morning. I wish I might remain silent. Of the mission, Mrs. Hoy, Brother Schneider, Brother Gerhard, Dr. Moore, and Brother Layder, are the only ones, I think, who are aware of my misfortune, and in America a few confidential friends bear the matter on their minds. Mrs. Hoy was the first to be told of the affair, and not till February, 1896. The facts are few, but they remain burned deep into my mind.

In October, 1890, one day, late at night, I heard the familiar call, *Yubin*—mail—at the front door. As usual, without a thought of danger, I went to the door. There stood three masked men, each with the deadly Japanese sword thrust into close proximity with my head and breast. They demanded access to the mission safe. Refusal must mean death, and even obedience might mean the same fate. Nervous as I naturally would be under such circumstances, it took me some time to work the safe combination. During this ordeal I expected to be cut down any moment. After the door was opened the robbers soon helped themselves to the 7,000 yen—partly building fund and partly mission funds, which I had placed there in various sums from time to time, as at that time there was a general scare about the banks in Japan. The men left without doing me any harm. Then, there I sat for hours before the safe. Words fail me to describe my feelings. For years I had toiled so hard and sacrificed so much for our school, and now in a moment all hope was gone. What would the Mission say? What would the Board be able to do? What effect would this loss have upon the church at home? And so on. At last I cried out, "Oh Lord, put the burden on me. Put the burden on me. The work must not suffer. I will bear the burden."

Thus for nearly seven years, I have laboured on, and it has not been without its blessing. For some time I have realised the blessing of unreserved service to God. As my wife, several dear friends, and now the Board, assure me that it is not right for me to go on alone in this matter, I reluctantly give these facts. As to the exact sum to cover it all in gold, I cannot answer accurately. At the time exchange averaged about 80. This would make the 7,000 yen \$5,600, gold. But that does not express the real amount I have used to gradually reduce the sum, because since that time exchange has varied very much—once falling to 47. For some time it has been from 51 to 63. Just now it is 50. So the 7,000 yen just now would mean only \$3,500, gold. I have worked off all but about 2,000 yen, or as exchange runs about \$1,000, gold.

The *Eastern World* of the 4th inst. has the following reference to the matter:—

From the columns of a daily contemporary we learn of a strange case of robbery that has just come to light in Sendai. Last year the Rev. W. E. Hoy, the treasurer of an American mission in Sendai, had to hand the books and accounts of the mission over to the Rev. Snyder, as he was going to America, and it then came out that he had been robbed in 1890 by three armed men who entered his house in the middle of the night and ordered him to open the safe, which he did, and who then took out 7,000 yen. Instead of at once giving the alarm and setting the police on the track of the burglars, however, so that they might be arrested and the money recovered, the Rev. Hoy, according to a letter which appeared in the *Christian World* of Sept. 30th, sat for hours before the safe, and cried to the Lord to put the burden upon him. The law, we think, would have required him to make every attempt to put the burden on the burglars, and the Japanese police are as good as the best of

any country in ferreting out robberies, and are there for that purpose. The Rev. Hoy then said nothing and borrowed money, which he worked off as he could, till about 2,000 yen remained to be paid; which speaks very much for his ability, as it is no trifle for any one not in a well-paying business to lay by 5,000 yen in six years. It also seems to us that duty towards his fellow men required the Rev. Hoy not to let armed ruffians who robbed him of a considerable sum of money go free to commit similar depredations elsewhere. This proceeding shows a great lack of common sense and of common duty and also great ignorance of some very elementary principles of the law. The money was kept in the safe, the Rev. Hoy says, because at that time there was a general scare about the banks in Japan. That scare must have been a strictly local one then, for nothing about it was known in Tokio or Yokohama, and it was not wise in any case for the Rev. Hoy to assume the risk of fire, theft, and burglary, when there was the very ordinary expedient to give the money into the custody of a bank enclosed in a properly sealed package. In the meantime the mission has absolved the Rev. Hoy from all responsibility and it must be presumed that the police have now been informed of the burglary, although nothing to that effect is stated in the account of the affair.

The *Japan Mail* points out there is a certain similarity between the above case and that of the Rev. Dr. Large, who was killed by burglars in the Methodist Mission at Tokio in April, 1890. There was very little doubt that the aim of his murderers was to rob the safe, which they knew contained some \$700; but Dr. Large resisted them, and they killed him. The *Mail* says that it is much to be regretted that Mr. Hoy did not inform the police at once of the robbery at Sendai. It is not unlikely that it was committed by the men who murdered Dr. Large, and had Mr. Hoy informed the police at once it might have given them the clue for the want of which the murderers of Dr. Large have escaped.

This annual dinner of the China Association took place at the Hotel Métropole, London, on the 4th ult., Mr. W. Keswick in the chair, and Sir Alfred Dent in the vice-chair, the ends of the other tables being taken by Messrs. E. Cameron, W. M. Strachan, R. S. Gundry, J. H. Gwyther, T. W. Richardson, and J. H. Scott. About 180 old China hands and their friends were present. From a private letter received by the mail we learn that it was an excellent dinner and everything went on wheels. The toasts were "The Queen," proposed by the chair; "The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces," proposed by Mr. R. C. Antrobus and responded to by Vice-Admiral Morant, Maj.-Gen. Sim, R.E., and Lt.-Gen. Sir T. Gordon; "Prosperity to the China Association," proposed by the chair; "Our Guests," proposed by Mr. E. H. Pollard and responded to by Mr. G. Jamieson, C.M.G.; and "The Chairman," proposed by Mr. J. H. Gwyther.

In the case of the collision with the steamer *Eastbourne* off Cape Espichel on the 11th of July last, in which the new Japanese steamer *Tai Hoku*, 3,100 tons, was sunk, Mr. Justice Barnes, sitting in Admiralty with Trinity Masters, has found that the *Eastbourne* was alone to blame.

The completion of the trans-Siberian railway seems likely to be deferred to a much later date than was at one time supposed. From Vladivostok to Khabarovka, a distance of something under 500 miles, the line is open; but the rolling-stock is very poor, and the traffic is worked very slowly. The section from Khabarovka to Stretensk, a distance of 1,340 miles, has not yet been touched. From Stretensk to Lake Baikal the line is open, and the trains are transported across Lake Baikal in the summer on two large ferry steamers

built by Armstrongs. In Western Siberia there are still two large gaps in the line. There is some doubt now whether the line will be carried through Manchuria after all. The original surveyors reported that as the country at the western end was mostly a plain, the construction there would be very easy; but it is found now that this plain is full of swamps, and is intersected by rivers whose beds are very capricious, and a great part of the line will have to be carried on bridges, whose construction will be excessively costly; while at the eastern end there is some very heavy tunnelling. It is considered doubtful now whether the line can be completed in ten years from the present time.

The *London & China Express* of the 5th ult. contains full notices of the late Colonel Chard, V.C., who died in England on the 1st ult. in his 50th year, of cancer of the tongue; and of the late Sir Rutherford Alcock, who died in London on the 2nd ult. in his 89th year. Over 53 years ago he was appointed Consul at Amoy, and in 1845 he occupied the same post at Foochow. He was then transferred to Shanghai to relieve Capt., afterwards Sir George, Balfour, the first British Consul here. After 8 years in Shanghai he was transferred to Canton, with Mr. Harry Parkes as Vice-Consul. In 1856 he was back in Shanghai, and in 1858 was made the first Consul-General in Japan, and subsequently Diplomatic Agent. In 1865 he was transferred to Peking as Minister, retiring in 1871, after nearly thirty years' service in the Far East.

From the same paper we extract the following notes:—

In the Silver market, with the close of the month, the shortage, which had led to extremely inflated quotations, came to an end, and the market has consequently fallen a little over one penny, and closes weak at 26½d. In Mexican dollars few dealings have taken place, and the price is rather nominal.

There is no change in the position of the Tea market. The trade continues to buy with confidence. There have been continuous large auctions of Indian Tea. Ceylon Teas show a hardening in prices as supplies are moderate. In China Tea the position is "as before," in regard to the nature of transactions, but deliveries for October prove most disappointing.

The following notes are from the *London and China Express* of the 5th of November:—

The *Journal des Débats* referring to the situation on the Niger, says everything points to the belief that, in spite of discussions in the Press, the Anglo-French Commission will not separate without achieving its mission. The ardour of certain recent polemics and the confusion of Treaties and outposts show, says the journal, that it is absolutely indispensable to replace the present state of affairs in West Africa by a properly-regulated and legal régime.

Thousands of people assembled in the streets of Chatham last night to witness the departure for London of the model cruiser *Minerva*, which is to take part in the Lord Mayor's Show. The ship is complete in every detail, and is fitted with masts and fighting-tops, with three guns, funnels, and ventilating cowls, and is equipped with guns and torpedo tubes. Quite a procession was organised, composed of carriages containing members of the Town Council, military bands, a body of working men and torch bearers.

The *Edgar*, cruiser, Captain G. F. King-Hall, was taken from Plymouth Sound into the Channel on 29th ult. for a commissioning trial, which was unsatisfactory, the feed pipes of the boilers being found defective. On the 3rd inst. she went out for another three hours' steam trial, which proved satisfactory. The average speed was rather over 19 knots an hour. On return to port she hoisted the flag of Rear-

Admiral C. P. FitzGerald, as second in command of the China Station. After having had a slight defect made good she left for China on the 4th inst., taking out Rear-Admiral FitzGerald to the *Grafton* and relief crews for the *Archer*, *Linnet*, and *Peacock*.

It is stated that the French protected-deck cruisers *Du Chayla* and *Cassard*, which were expected to make 19½ knots, made respectively 20½ knots and 20 knots on their full power trial trips. The *Du Chayla*, built at Cherbourg, laid down 13th March, 1893, and launched 10th November, 1895, is a cruiser of 3,990 tons with 6,000-horse power natural and 9,500 forced draught. Her engines were made at d'Indret, and she is to steam 6,000 knots at ten knots speed; her engines being two sets vertical with three expansions. The boilers are of the Lagrate d'Allest type. The *Cassard* is a sister ship, but her engines were made by the Compagnie des Forges et Chantiers de la Méditerranée. She was laid down on the 22nd of October 1893, and launched on the 27th of May, 1896, but she has been finished a month before her time.

The doubts which have been so freely expressed as to the adaptability of electric traction to the services of our underground railways appear now to have been finally solved by the achievements of American electrical engineers. In a long and interesting article in the current number of the *Railway News*, particulars are given of electric locomotives which have proved themselves fully equal to the task, not only of drawing passenger trains at a high speed, but of hauling the heaviest freight trains, at an operating expense about the same as for steam locomotives. On the Baltimore and Ohio line it has been shown by trials that not only could the guaranteed speeds for passenger trains of 30 miles an hour be attained, but speeds of 35 or 40 miles, with 500-ton trains, were possible—and this on lines which were not built for electric traction, but for working by steam. The ousting of steam by electricity ought now to be within measurable distance of accomplishment.

The November issue of the *St. John's Echo* opens with an editorial article by Mr. Theodore Wong which mentions the departure on the 13th of October for the United States of the President of the College, the Rev. F. L. Hawks Pott. He has gone "with a view to appealing in person for more missionaries to come out to China, and to raising the expansion fund for the new Science Hall." Mr. Ang-sung Yon sends a long article showing how much this hall is wanted. Mr. R. N. Tsui tells, under the heading "It's a Ghost!" a thrilling story of the return of a son, who had been captured by the rebels, to his widowed mother, just while his spiritual wedding to another ghost was being celebrated. There is an unsigned article, to be continued, on "Agriculture in China;" and a paper by Mr. Nion-zung explaining "How the Literary Examinations in China are conducted," with a mention of the ghosts that torment the unhappy candidates in their cells. An interesting number concludes with an article by Mr. K. S. Tao on "Chinese Food." We note that the writer says: "The eating of rats or cats is not known in this part of China, but dogs are sometimes eaten by the lower class of people, such as beggars, and sometimes by coolies."

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Miscellaneous Articles.

THE JUDGMENT IN THE
BENNERTZ CASE IN HONGKONG.

11th Dec.

THE judgment which Sir J. W. Carrington, Chief Justice of Hongkong, delivered on the 1st of this month in the Supreme Court there in the case of the Emperor of China v. Bennertz and another, the terms of which we printed yesterday morning, is a perfectly inapplicable one. In the first place it appears that anyone may arrest a steamer in Hongkong and keep her idle for a year, and only be liable at the outside for \$1,000 damages. Both parties seem to have taken this for granted, and if this is the law in Hongkong, the sooner it is changed the better. Then the Chief Justice seems to have taken for granted that the allegations in the petition of the Emperor of China were true; (1) that he was the owner of the *Ningchow*; and (2) that Bennertz & Co. were acting in contravention of the charter-party in sending the *Ningchow* to Hongkong. But to the simple man it appears that if a plaintiff suddenly and without leave withdraws his suit, it is because he has failed, or knows that he will on trial fail, to prove his case and the allegations in his petition. It must be remembered that the Emperor of China withdrew his suit in Hongkong while evidence was being taken in Shanghai on a commission; yet without the evidence taken on this commission being before him, the Chief Justice takes all the material allegations of the plaintiff as proved.

It is evident that the writ of the Emperor of China runs large in Hongkong; we suppose that distance lends enchantment to the view; and the logical result of the decision is, that if the Emperor of China is plaintiff in a suit in Hongkong, or is made plaintiff without knowing anything whatever about it, all the allegations in his petition may be taken as facts, even when the suit has been unconditionally withdrawn.

We are informed that the plaintiff's counsel in Shanghai formally admitted that Bennertz & Co. had a right under the charter-party to send the *Ningchow* to Hongkong; to clear a vessel at the Customs for one port and send her to another is a thing that is constantly done here; but yet the Chief Justice regards it as a trick, and says that it furnished grounds for her arrest. There seems to be a decided failure of justice here, and it is the harder as the *Ningchow* was sent to Hongkong in order that if her owners thought that Bennertz & Co. had done them wrong, the latter might have the assurance that their case was being tried in a British Court, with all the safeguards that that implies.

FOREIGN DIPLOMACY IN CHINA.

14th Dec.

THE Editor of the new periodical *Literature* has again laid the reading world under obligation by his recent sketch of Lord Cromer and our policy in Egypt. Those who are acquainted with Mr. Traill know that a literary treat is in store for them; that they may look for a clear review of circumstances and a calm dissection of reason and policy. The book is enriched too with many a caustic description and reflection, such as the author of *The New Lucian* might be expected to indulge in. Where can a more happy description of the Gladstone Cabinet of 1884 be found than to call it "fourteen absolutely unimaginative gentlemen.... shilly-shallying?" And what could be a more fitting description of the policy the British Government is pursuing at present towards China than "unimaginative shilly-shallying?"

The able articles which have appeared in recent issues of the *Times* show conclusively that hitherto no just appreciation of the Chinese character nor of the British interests involved is discernible in our policy; bullying, yielding, coaxing, all these terms are applicable to the policy of successive years. We need not stay to support these statements by facts; the articles to which we have referred afford ample proof. We write in the hope that a change is coming over the spirit of our diplomacy in the Far East. The impetuous action of Germany threatened to complicate seriously the political situation in China. High-handed her action undoubtedly was—though as a means to an end, due reparation for injuries inflicted, it is not only excusable, but as we have pointed out before, praiseworthy; had, however, annexation been contemplated as some feared, it would have been necessary to characterise it very differently. The Central Government is not in that state of utter collapse that it wields no authority over its provinces and their high officials; justice can be administered still if the strong arm of the foreigner insists. We are not advocating a complete return to the so-called "gunboat" policy; but the Chinese require more than moral suasion to move them. In common with all Asiatics, the Yamen respects firmness in dealing, and the negative results of the last thirty years have proved conclusively that the methods of diplomacy as a fine art are inapplicable here. They have produced a Li Hung-chang and little else!

We hoped, and events have justified the hope, that Germany intended nothing more than this and the infusion of new life into the nation by obtaining working concessions for mining and railway progress. We are convinced that nothing effective can come of the schemes of Chang Chih-tung and Sheng Hsian-huai; European control is essential. The throttle valve must be shut down on the appetites of rapacious officials;

the foreign directorate will act as the governor. Such waste of government and public money as is now to be seen in the Hanyang Iron Works, the Kiangnan and other Arsenals, and the Woosung Railway must be checked. On such lines only can the industrial development of China progress; and in thus opening up China, the leading Powers can surely come to a working agreement. Now is the time to steadily and firmly insist that the day of tariff reform, of financial reconstruction, and the cleansing of the civil administration has come.

It should be the aim of British policy to foster this spirit and press for such developments, together with the maintenance of the integrity of the Empire—the eighteen provinces. It was pointed out in a recent article that division constitutes a source of weakness to European peace. It would further be an act of injustice to the Government and people; for which even the past obstructive policy of the Yamen would form no excuse. For are not the Powers by their continual jealousies and rivalries largely to blame for the successful obstruction to, and present backwardness of commercial development? Great Britain is not such a *quantité négligeable* in the world's affairs that her wishes can be lightly set aside; we hope that the Foreign Office is waking up to the needs of the times and the adoption of a policy which, while affording scope for the capital and energy of its own and Continental Powers, will open up the country to the trade of all, and thereby tend to enrich alike the foreign merchant and the Chinese Government and people.

THE INVESTORS' REVIEW
FOR NOVEMBER.

15th Dec.

THE first article in the November issue of Mr. A. J. Wilson's most readable monthly contains a really aggravating notice that from the beginning of next year the *Investors' Review* will be turned into a weekly instead of remaining a monthly paper. We regret the change very much, although it may be said that investors will profit by it, but then what advice ever prevented a man from going into a wild-cat scheme if it pleased his fancy? There are too many weekly papers in London already, and the warnings of Cassandra inevitably lose their force if they are too often reiterated. The *Investors' Review* began as a quarterly, then became a monthly, is now to blossom out as a weekly, and by and by no doubt will become another superfluous daily.

The very regrettable position taken up recently by the Government in reference to Senator Wolcott's proposals for the introduction of international bimetalism has induced Mr. Wilson to write a trenchant article on "The Present and the Bimetallic Gold Value of a

Bank of England Note." The opening paragraphs of the article are:—

"The grand bimetallic debate still drags along, leading nowhere. But for the poverties behind it, no one need give any attention to it. There are, however, so many nations to whom a cheap fraud, like the forced circulation of silver coins at a false valuation, would be like a great deliverance from bankruptcy; so many individuals, also, to whom the fictitious demand for the white metal, which a bimetallic experiment might cause, would mean fortunes, or deliverance from insolvency, that we may be sure the agitation will be kept up. Hysteria is behind it, too, and the fervid imaginations of mild, philanthropic dreamers like Lord Aldenham. And around all such stand the multitudes of the ignorant, to whom any splutter of consecutive words, with a 'given this' and a 'suppose that' or a 'granted this other postulate,' may become as the wisdom of the prophet.

"Yet all these elements of ferment together might not have drawn us to speak again of the stale torrent of plums, and dodges, and words, words, had not the position of our own Government remained still so questionable and equivocal. What it means, or has meant, by the part it has taken in the recent hubbub raised by the delegates from Mr. McKinley, no sane being can understand; but if the statement blurted out by Sir John Lubbock, at the meeting held by the Committee of London Clearing-house bankers to censure the letter of Governor Smith, has any truth in it—and he spoke, we understand, with an air of authority, much as if he had been deputed to try and stop the opposition—the Government has gone much further in this business than any one of us has ever suspected. Sir John declared that the Government had agreed to guarantee the Bank against any loss arising from the attempt to rehabilitate the white metal by the adoption of the policy towards it sanctioned in the Bank Act. A vista of dangers and of loss to the nation is here opened out before which we may well stand aghast; and to show just what it might mean, we propose to analyse the composition of the Bank of England £5 note in the light of the present constitution of the Note Reserve, and where it would stand were the authorised proportion of silver added to it."

While most people, we are told, believe the notes of the Bank to be gold notes pure and simple, the Bank does not hold gold enough to pay them off, if they were all presented at once; and we cannot imagine that anyone thinks otherwise. In a £5 note the value of the gold held by the Bank in reserve is £3 10s.; the remaining £1 10s. is secured by the national credit. "The nation, in other words, stands pledged to pay, at the date of this return (the 16th of September last), and always, £16,800,000 in order to make up the value of the note to its full tale in gold." We do not ourselves

conceive that there is anything in this statement to frighten the most timid holder of a £5 note, but Mr. Wilson gravely says that "it is a standing scandal that the Government has never, from the days of William and Mary until now, done anything appreciable to abate this scandal." Then he goes to show that, scandalous as this present position is, it would be far worse if the suggestion should be adopted that the Bank should hold one-fifth of its reserve in silver. In that case the value of gold in a £5 note, which is entirely payable in gold, would be £2 10s.; the value of silver £0 12. 6d.; and the Government indebtedness including cost price liability for loss on silver, £1 17s. 6d. "We trust," he says, "the nation likes the prospect. Five-pound notes intrinsically worth from £2 15s. to £3, trade dislocated and disorganised, our imperial credit weakened at its foundations, uncertainty and fear everywhere in place of confidence and stability—these are some of the consequences which would flow from even the attempt to carry through the insane device foisted on the Governor of the Bank, and shrieked about ever since it became public all the days of the week by the people who have gone daft on the silver question." We are glad to learn incidentally that there is no fear at the moment of a monetary panic in London; and at present, when panics do come they are dissipated by the suspension of the Bank Charter Act, and the permission thus given to the Bank to issue notes without metallic cover, because the public has no doubt of the ultimate redemption of those notes with gold. "But would this belief continue prevalent if fully half the value represented by the note were in depreciated silver and Government promises to pay—to pay at the Day of Judgment? We do not believe it would. On the contrary, the craving of the note-holder would then be to get gold for it, and gold he would have as long as a bar or a coin of it remained in the Bank's vaults."

We turn from this tirade to a very reliable article headed, "The True Source of India's Woes." The chief source is the mistaken "forward policy," which is wasting money and valuable lives, and at the same time crippling England's energies, in conquering deserts and swamps and mountain passes which we cannot hold when we have conquered them, and which were a much better protection to our frontier when left in the possession of the native tribes:—

"No revenue can be drawn from those desolate regions. On the contrary, the only effect they produce on the Indian Exchequer is to increase its burdens. For we never really 'conquer' the wild tribes whom we are always hunting and slaying. They get dispersed, and perhaps decimated, and then we bribe them to keep them quiet for a season. Frontier wars thus always end in frontier subsidies, by means of which

the irreconcilable tribes of hillmen—whose hatred of us is intensified by every raid we make—provide themselves with better weapons, in order to have another try to wrench back their complete independence. Surely this is insane 'Imperialism,' if ever that lust-child of the fire-eater pest of humanity could be aught else,—for pest the soldier is when he ceases to be the servant of the civil power and becomes its master."

Works, wars, and famine will probably cost India fifteen millions sterling during the current year. "It would require ten years of quiet thrifty government to overcome the devastation of the last two years; and under the present accursed military domination of Indian civil affairs, there is no more chance for India to get this thrifty calm than for her *ryots* to become rich by borrowing at 80 per cent interest."

The article that follows on "The West Indian Sugar Commission" emphasises the fact that it is very much more to the apathy of the white planters than to Continental bounties that the decay of the West Indian islands is due, and we know that this is the real conviction of most if not all of the Commissioners. The islands were practically ruined by the payment to them of twenty millions sterling as compensation for the liberation of their slaves. "A Wonderful Portuguese Budget Essay" is an amusing *exposé* of Portuguese finance; there is a capital article on "British and Foreign Shipping," and there are the usual more or less interesting notes of all kinds. The "Critical Index to New Investments" makes us wonder every month where the people are found who have to be solemnly warned against some of the ventures offered them by these unscrupulous promoters.

AN IMPERIAL MINT.

16th Dec.

It was always understood that the scarcity of silver in Shanghai, which has amounted almost to a famine, would be relieved about the 15th of December, and we mentioned yesterday that a large amount of bar silver had arrived by the Japan mail steamer, and that a further large amount is hourly expected by the incoming mail steamer from San Francisco. It might be thought that the difficulty of getting this bar silver converted into currency—*sycee*—would temporarily reduce the value of this relief. It is well known to all who take an interest in the matter that every shoe of *sycee*—the currency of China—is cast by hand in a mould held in the hand, the workman putting in the right quantity of alloy during the process of melting. Attempts have been made heretofore, we believe, to cast shoes of *sycee* by machinery, but they have failed, machinery not having succeeded in giving the shoe the appearance by which the native *Kungku* is able to estimate the

"touch" or quality of the silver. The resources of Shanghai at the present time are only equal to an out-turn of about one thousand shoes, or fifty thousand taels, a day, though when bar silver has been coming in regularly in considerable quantities, there were enough workmen to turn out fully two thousand shoes a day. The production of a shoe of sycee that will be acceptable to the keen scrutiny of the *Kungku* requires a considerable amount of experience, and it is impossible to increase the out-turn at short notice. As we have said, it might have been thought that the present restriction of the output would tend to prolong the stringency from which Shanghai has been suffering, but the knowledge that the silver is now in Shanghai has been enough. So men making a run upon a bank are quite prepared to decline to take their money as soon as they know that the bank is ready to pay it.

Crises like the one we have just passed through, even though not very intense, draw attention to the want of a coinage in China. The want will not be met by the permission given to any Viceroy who asks for it to build a mint and issue his own coins. There is no guarantee for uniformity of weight and quality, and it is impossible to make the resulting coins legal tender throughout the Empire. If the tael of silver is to remain the unit of the Chinese currency—and China will be ill-advised to adopt a gold standard, though it is supposed that some high officials in Peking have been coquetting with the idea—an Imperial mint should be established coining a tael piece and subsidiary coins which should be legal tender throughout the Empire. At present every city of importance has a different tael; but now-a-days, with the spread of commerce and the improvement of communications, this is an anomaly which should be abolished. The empire wants a uniform currency and a uniform system of weights and measures; and the former can only be secured in practice by the establishment of an Imperial mint, whose coinage shall be the only legal tender, the various shoes, dollars, and pieces of fractional currency, unminted and minted silver, being deposed to the level of a commodity, and saleable only at their intrinsic value as metal. The Imperial Post Office is growing by degrees into a satisfactory institution under the able management of Sir Robert Hart, and Sir Robert would deserve well of all foreign traders and other residents in China if he were now to get the Throne to authorise him to establish an Imperial mint. This is one of the branches of government in which centralisation is imperative. Nothing will so much promote the extension of centralisation in the government of China as the construction of railways. As a system of railways spreads over China joining province to province, a uniform currency will become indispensable, and this is only one of the ways in

which the railway will strengthen the central government, and benefit the Empire. The present currency of China is too clumsy, and must be reformed; the tentative reformation that is being introduced in the shape of the establishment of provincial mints, whose coinage cannot be made legal tender generally, is obviously insufficient. We are not of those who despair of China's maintaining her integrity, and recovering the best part of her lost position in Asia; but she must show that there is still vitality in her by introducing reforms where they are required. To refuse or to delay unduly these reforms is to confess that she is moribund. The eagles are gathered together and are only waiting to make sure that the carcass is ready. China should disappoint them by making efforts to show that there is still some healthy life in her; she can, if she likes, get disinterested advisers to guide her efforts.

LORD SALISBURY'S DEALINGS WITH FRANCE.

17th Dec.

In the last year or two the *Fortnightly Review* has printed a series of articles by "Diplomaticus," a writer who, whatever may be his real claims to the title he has chosen, shows at least a very intimate knowledge of foreign affairs. In the November issue of the well-known monthly edited by Mr. W. L. Courtney, "Diplomaticus" treats of Lord Salisbury's dealings with France, and we propose now to endeavour to compress into the limits of an article an argument that occupies thirteen pages. We must premise that we agree with Lord Salisbury in holding that the friendship of France is of the greatest possible value to Great Britain; on the other hand we believe that our friendship is of equal importance to France; and "Diplomaticus" in these pages recalls Gambetta's remarkable words to de Freycinet: "Even at the cost of the greatest sacrifices, never break the alliance with England;" and we believe that the maintenance of a firm attitude in the face of French pretensions is much more likely to make France value our friendship than the habitual attitude of concession in which Lord Salisbury appears to delight.

There has during the last fifteen years been a series of disagreements between England and France, which have sometimes nearly resulted in a rupture. "Diplomaticus" shows that the fundamental responsibility for this rests with the late Lord Beaconsfield. England and France went into the Berlin Congress hand in hand, and while both announced their intention of coming out with clean hands, Lord Beaconsfield came out with Cyprus in his grasp. Naturally France was disgusted; she looked about for compensation in the Mediterranean and decided on Tunis. "The story of the negotiations, as officially told, is not without an element of comedy. A map was

fetched, and the two statesmen surveyed the sea. Their attention suddenly became arrested, in a way that reminds one of Mr. Wemmick, by the Regency of Tunis. Lord Salisbury said something about the sad condition of this little country, and M. Waddington responded by avowing that its benighted state was a source of anxiety to France. Carried away by this beautiful spirit of altruism, both statesmen seemed to forget the business which had brought them together, and talked only of the good that might be done for the unhappy Regency. Lord Salisbury was the first to point out that France, with her splendid civilisation, was a neighbour of Tunis in Algeria, and that she seemed obviously destined 'to preside over the regeneration of that country, consecrated by great memories.' M. Waddington humbly confessed that a similar idea had occurred to him, whereupon Lord Salisbury replied as though inspired; 'Do at Tunis what you think proper. England will offer no opposition, and will respect your decisions.' So the bargain was struck."

The bargain was ratified, but France could not take immediate action on it, as Lord Salisbury reserved the rights of Italy in Tunis, and Lord Granville subsequently reserved the rights of Turkey. "In short, the transaction between Lord Salisbury and M. Waddington at Berlin in July, 1878, was that France drew upon us a long bill for Tunis, which we accepted, the consideration being Cyprus." The arrangement suited Prince Bismarck admirably, and he fully sympathised with France; for he saw that her annexation of Tunis would help to isolate France in Europe, and foster in her an appetite for colonial expansion which would render friction with England inevitable.

This appetite for colonial expansion was cultivated by M. Jules Ferry, a statesman of rare ability, whose courage was equal to his statesmanship. He began with Tunis, which he took under the protection of France, and "the whole of France smiled approval, while he subventioned M. de Brazza's explorations in the hinterlands of Senegal and the Gaboon, competed at the Berlin African Conference for concessions of territory on the West Coast, imposed a partial protectorate on Madagascar, and carved out a veritable empire for his countrymen in Indo-China. When he fell into disgrace after the disaster of Langson, he had made France the second colonial Power in the world, and even a source of some anxiety, if not alarm, to the still greater colonial Power on whose heels she was treading."

Then France, not satisfied with Tunis, began to regret her voluntary relinquishment of her position in Egypt. "When France awoke to the disastrous reality of the error she had committed in deserting us at Alexandria, she made up her mind, as foolish people usually do under such circumstances, that she had been duped, and that the only

course open to her was to revenge herself by embarking on a great policy of colonial rivalry with us. From that time, fifteen years ago, France has carried on, in all parts of the globe, a thinly-veiled war with us—or rather against us, for we have not once struck back." There are two questions among many, which it is important to notice; one is her attempt to seize the hinterland of our West African Colonies, the other her attempted armed invasion of our sphere of influence on the Upper Nile. By annexing their remoter hinterlands, France cut off our Gambia and Sierra Leone Colonies from the interior, and warned by this, we set to work to secure treaties with the tribal chiefs in the hinterland of our other colonies. The principle France at first insisted on was that treaties with native chiefs were sufficient title and must be respected: but when the French found that our negotiators were getting ahead of them in this respect, they turned round and declared that they could only recognise effective occupation as a valid title. "Under this new theory, they at once overran the British hinterlands, and distributed small detachments of men in the various regions where we had acquired treaty rights."

In East Africa the French are forcibly invading, from the French Congo and from Abyssinia, territory forming part of the dominion of the Khedive for which we are responsible. "It is clear from this that what we are now witnessing in the Bahr-el-Ghazal is a distinct attempt on the part of France to grab territory which is doubly within our sphere—in the first place as an ancient dependency of Egypt, whose legal custodian we are in virtue of the devolution upon us by France's own act of the rights of the Dual Control and their consequences; in the second place as a contingent dependency of Uganda, proclaimed to all the world as such by the Anglo-German Treaty of 1890."

Here "Diplomaticus" turns to consider the relation of these extraordinary proceedings to the recent treaty with France respecting Tunis. The completion of the French Protectorate over Tunis depended on the expiry of the treaties between Tunis and the European Powers; practically it depended on the treaty with Italy, who refused to give up an inch of her rights. The treaty between England and Tunis had no fixed limit, but France counted on our giving it up without demur; and when the Italian treaty expired at the end of last year, France obtained a free hand, though Lord Salisbury secured an unimportant and limited concession in regard to cotton duties. "Diplomaticus" is amazed at Lord Salisbury's complaisance in the face of the war that France is waging against us, especially as there are two good grounds on which Lord Salisbury might have refused to give up our rights until France ceased her attacks on us in Africa.

These are first the rights of Turkey, and secondly the utter disregard by

France of her pledge, exacted from her by Lord Granville, that Biserta should not be fortified or transformed into a naval port. It is now the second strongest naval port in the Mediterranean, threatening our communications between Malta and Gibraltar. "Surely Lord Salisbury might have found here a sufficient justification for postponing the termination of the Tunis Commercial Treaty until some better inducement was offered than a small reduction in cotton duties." "Diplomaticus" concludes his article—and it must be remembered that he is a supporter of Lord Salisbury's general policy—by saying:—

"I have said that the new treaty is, in my humble opinion, a danger as well as a blunder. By this I mean that it deprives us of the last pacific means of solving the very serious controversies pending with France. While it remained with us to say whether the French Protectorate in Tunis should be a reality or not, we could always point to West Africa or the Upper Nile, and suggest that the road to our acquiescence lay in those regions. With that card in our hands, we could have sat still, confident that whatever occurred, the odd trick was ours. Now what resources have we? Either we make a further surrender in Paris—and as I write it is rumoured that the Say-Boussa-Nikki triangle is gone—or else we let loose the 'armed police' now operating in Gurnuzi and Borgu, and the formidable 'delimitation mission' which is marching in such a roundabout way to Harrar, with the daily risk of their colliding with some swaggering French force, and thus dragging us into war.

"Of course, to all this it may be replied that persevering conciliation and patient sacrifices will one day soften the heart of France, and open her eyes to reason. I have entertained the same delusion myself, and everyone must hope that it will be realised. For the moment it is notorious that the restraining influence of the Czar is the chief guarantee of peace between England and France."

For ourselves, we cannot believe that France and England could ever go to war over unoccupied territory in West Africa, and we have little doubt that the Conference on the subject lately assembled will bring the dispute to a happy ending.

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Reviews.

THE FRENCH MAIL PAPERS. (FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 5TH OF NOV.)

It is astonishing to us who are living in the midst of "excursions and alarm," and who realise that Lord Rosebery was right when he said that the Far East was to be the scene of the next great struggle between the European Powers, to discover how completely interest in China has ceased for the English Press generally; and weekly papers, like the *Overland Mail*, which used to keep "The Far East" as a standing heading, have quite discontinued it of late. The news of the attempted ejection of Mr. McLeavy Brown from the Korean Finance Department is curtly given in a telegram to the *Times*, but no attention is paid to it, though there are people on the staff of the leading journal who must have been able to appreciate its importance. The *Globe* did have some inkling of the meaning of the step; for it says in its issue of the 2nd ult.:—

Once more has Russia given evidence of the energy with which she is pursuing her policy in the Far East. The *Times*' correspondent at Seoul telegraphs this morning that the Russian Minister has forced the Korean Government to dismiss the English Financial Adviser and Chief of the Customs, and put a Russian in his place. This move may be counted not only as a victory over the English, but the Japanese as well. Indeed, so far as Korea is concerned, our influence appears to be gradually approaching the vanishing point, and the struggle for supremacy has devolved into a diplomatic duel between Russia and Japan. In the opinion of most students of Far Eastern politics, the diplomatic weapons now being used by these two Powers will shortly become exchanged for warlike ones, though such a situation is hardly likely to come about until the Northern Power feels herself more fully prepared than she is at present. It will be interesting, however, to know in the meanwhile what the policy of this country is going to be regarding the future of Korea. By the treaty of Port Hamilton no other Power is permitted to occupy any portion of Korean territory; and unless we are prepared to surrender the undertaking made with China in 1887, Russia's obvious designs on the Korean Peninsula must one day be thwarted by us. That she is using every effort to Russianise that country has been apparent ever since the conclusion of the Chino-Japanese war; and the most important step yet advanced by her in this direction is the one announced this morning. The Customs in Korea are managed by European officials in the same manner as they are in China, and by exercising control over them Russia places her hand upon the chief source of revenue. The Russian chief will no doubt make it his duty to gradually supplant all the English and other European officials in the different Korean treaty ports by Russian agents, who, by their presence and authority, will show the inhabitants that they, and their country, have the master hand. This continual advancement of Russian and decline of British influence in the Far East is getting very tiring.

On the other hand the London papers pay a great deal of attention to the election to the mayoralty of Greater New York, and almost unanimously deplore the result. They quite understood that General Tracy's candidature was put forward in the interest of Tammany, in order to draw away from Low as many Republican votes as possible; and the conspiracy succeeded, but it must be remembered that Judge Van Wyck, the new Mayor, polled 15,000 votes less than Low and Tracy together, so that he does not represent a majority of the voters. The *Times* says in its issue of the 3rd ult.:—

We cannot feel much surprise at the attitude of the Citizens' Union towards the Republican organisation. It is, no doubt, true that Mr. Platt is a "boss" of a different type from Mr. Croker, and that if his nominee,

General Tracy, had been elected—which was hopeless from the first—there would have been an attempt to administer "Greater New York," with its immense patronage, in an honest and honourable spirit. But those who have taken in hand the work of the Citizen's Union are convinced, rightly or wrongly, that the root of the evil which has grown to such gigantic proportions in New York is the subordination of administrative responsibilities to the aims and the strategy of party wire-pullers. They are unwilling to enter into any compacts or compromises with "bossism," even of the more respectable type, and we cannot undertake to say that they are in the wrong. They shrink from even the possibility of being used as tools by the skilful manipulators of votes and patronage. They ask, naturally enough, why, if Mr. Platt was in earnest in his professions of zeal for reform, he did not allow the Republicans—who, it is submitted, had no chance of success without the aid of the Reformers—to vote for Mr. Low, an acknowledged authority on all questions connected with Municipal Government? If Mr. Low had been elected by a combination of all the friends of honest administration, an interesting experiment, at any rate, would have been tried. We have some doubts whether even the best intentions would have been sufficient, in the peculiar conditions of the case, to insure satisfactory results, when such enormous power over so vast an area was placed in the hands of a single man, and that in a community saturated with the idea that public offices are to be bestowed as the spoils of political victory. A stronger man than Mr. Low might have found himself overmastered by his environment. As matters stand, we have no occasion to wander off into remote and doubtful speculations. We know what use Tammany will make of Judge Van Wyck's election as Mayor of New York. The power of Mr. Croker's organisation will be widened, strengthened, and consolidated. The means will be supplied for preparing for the next campaign and insuring the return of another Tammany nominee. The merchants and bankers of New York, the wise and cultivated men, the honest and philanthropic citizens, will be as impotent under Mr. Croker's domination as Italian or Hungarian patriots under the beaumbing rule of Metternich. And who can deny that "the people love to have it so?"

The *Times* in its issue of the 2nd has an article on the condition of affairs in Austria, in the course of which it says:—

Although things are looking very ill at the moment there is no reason to despair of some solution being found for the more pressing problems. Austria gets on as well in a chronic condition of imminent deadlock as some private persons who are always at the point of bankruptcy. When things are at the worst something happens to effect a partial amelioration, or the Emperor Francis Joseph appears in the rôle of *deus ex machina*. He seems to guide himself with unerring tact through all the mazes of Austrian and of Austro-Hungarian politics, possessing the absolute confidence of every party and every nationality in his heterogeneous dominions. When these tremendous talkers—one of them spoke the other day for twelve mortal hours—have blown off a little more of their indignation an opportunity may arrive for the mediation of the Emperor. If the combatants would only see it, they might quite well allow the Government to pass the *Ausgleich* law without prejudice to their quarrel. The Germans will probably not be allowed to overthrow Count Badeni, whether that law is passed or not, for this if for no other reason, that there is not the smallest guarantee that the sacrifice would produce any benefit. They may, therefore, consider whether it is worth their while to pose as the particular enemies of the instrument upon which the existence of the Dual Monarchy depends. In all Austrian affairs the Government can govern without them or over their heads. It is only for the *Ausgleich* that it depends on their co-operation; and if they make the passing of that law impossible they stand forth as the party of revolution, ready to upset the Monarchy without even the prospect of getting their own way in Austrian affairs.

On the same date the *Times* correspondent at Berlin sent the following note with re-

ference to the trouble between Germany and Hayti, of which we heard lately through Reuter:—

More detailed information with regard to the reported rupture of diplomatic relations between Germany and Hayti tends to minimise the importance of the incident. The *Post* learns that the matter has already been closed "in a manner consonant with the dignity of the German Empire," and that the imprisoned German is once more at liberty. The question of an indemnity for Herr Lüder or his family, hints the same paper, may yet have to be settled. The German warships which were said to have been summoned to the spot are known to be three training vessels which happen to be cruising in those waters.

According to the *Hamburgischer Correspondent*, "a German named Lüder was convicted by a Hawaiian (*sic*) court of law and imprisoned. The German representative on the island challenged the verdict as being unjust and influenced by a hatred of foreigners, declared it invalid, and accordingly demanded the liberation of Lüder, which was thereupon granted by the Government." The representative of the Hayti Republic in Berlin states that Lüder, who is continually coming into conflict with the authorities, was imprisoned for assaulting a policeman. The German representative demanded his release, but refused to take the customary steps to procure the same. At the intervention, however, of the Minister of the United States, the President gave the order for Lüder's liberation.

As the Paris correspondent of the *Times* points out, it seems a curious plan to pay for men-of-war by selling the nation's real property. In a letter dated Paris, the 1st ult., he says:—

It being intended that the 300,000,000f. to be expended on the navy should be provided by the sale of State properties, a commission has been appointed by M. Coehery, Minister of Finance, to report on what buildings or land can be disposed of. Some of the public offices will probably have to be transferred to other buildings. Buildings occupied for military purposes, which cannot be dealt with by this commission, will be reported upon by a War Office commission.

At first sight all this seems a very ingenious way of strengthening the navy without exacting money from the taxpayers, but it resembles the plan pursued by prodigal sons in selling their patrimony. The State should keep what it possesses, even if it is for the moment useless, otherwise, as ships wear out while alienated properties do not come back, this system, if continued, would lead to the sale of St. Germain, Fontainebleau, and Rambouillet, then the Park of Vincennes, the Bois de Boulogne, and all that belongs to the State. It would, perhaps, be better, if the sale is determined on, to devote the proceeds to lightening the Budget, subject to a gradual increase of the navy out of normal resources. But when public opinion has been worked up to some naval or military outlay it resents any attempt to reason with it.

We should rather think that the correspondent must be labouring under a misapprehension.

The *St. James's Budget* has a short article on Mr. Gilbert Reid's proposed International Institute at Peking, with a photograph of the buildings that it is designed to erect there for it.

The *Overland Mail* quotes the following indictment of the Government from that staunch Conservative organ, the *Morning Post*:—

The crucial test to-day is Egypt. After giving her order and prosperity it was incumbent on us to restore the abandoned provinces, to wipe away the stain on our own scutcheon, to vindicate the memory of Gordon, and to "smash the Mahdi." This task is now imperative, for great and imperial reasons connected with our whole position on the Dark Continent. The hour came, and Dongola fell last year easily into our hands. Sir Herbert Kitchener's campaign of this year is now familiar history. Shaken in their credulous belief in an all-conquering chief, the desert tribes have deserted the Khalifa, too glad to be free from his exactions and the cruelties of his followers, and the Sirdar

has pushed forward till Berber and the district of which it is the centre is in our hands. And now? With the river free, the railroad made to Abu Hamed, the road from Suakin to Berber open, the time of year propitious, the world expectant, we learn to our amazement that the newspaper correspondents are returning, as nothing is to be done! Nothing! In the presence of such opportunity! Nothing! In the contingency of such possibilities of danger and disaster! We were told by Mr. Balfour that the whole Nile Valley from Cairo to the Lakes was within the sphere of British influence, and Lord Salisbury directly pointed to Khartoum as the objective of this campaign. To make good these declarations everyone knows we must send a British force, and the name of Sir Francis Grenfell was only recently hailed with enthusiasm as its commander. But when we come to the point, when the word has to be given, a beautiful hesitation sets in—a moral influenza which paralyses our statesmen and is the curse of Constitutional Government.

The *Overland Mail* goes on to say that "the electorate is in a capacious humour. It returned a strong Ministry to power with an immense majority, which did not however prevent them from frittering away the first Session on an ambitious and impossible education scheme. They have not succeeded in satisfying the interests and classes at home who gave them their mandate, and they have not altogether realised the expectations formed of them in their conduct of foreign affairs. The Ministry are not for the moment in any serious danger, but it would be idle not to recognise that stormy times are ahead for them."

According to one home paper stormy times threaten within the Cabinet as well as from outside:—

There is a rumour that Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain by no means see eye to eye in the matter of the present negotiation with the French Government over West African affairs. The difference of opinion extends over a somewhat wider area than West Africa. Mr. Chamberlain is reported to be convinced that French pretensions all over Africa are the dangers which most nearly threaten us at the present moment, and he favours a policy of reconciliation with Germany, whose hostile attitude in the Transvaal might, he thinks, be modified, if not, indeed, wholly reversed. Lord Salisbury is disinclined to follow the advice of his Colonial Secretary, for two reasons—first, because he objects to what he regards as an attempt on the part of the Colonial Office to dictate on matters outside its proper sphere; and secondly, because he is personally inclined to favour a *rapprochement* with France and Russia. The effect of this divergence of opinion in high quarters is described as deplorable, so far at least as the Paris negotiations are concerned.

The *Economist* of the 30th of October has the following note on the Money Market:—

The Stock Exchange settlement and the approach of the end of the month have combined to cause an increase in the demand for money this week, and until yesterday short loans were not obtainable much below Bank rate, while the discount rate is a shade higher, at 2½ per cent., than when we last wrote. The Bank by its borrowing has obtained a fair control over the market, but in spite of that it is only the fear of the gold withdrawals that enables the discount rate to be maintained at its present level. It is not only that the American Exchange is drooping, but it is expected that very soon the Indian Government will be compelled to raise a fresh sterling loan, and that part of the proceeds will be shipped to India to replenish the Government balances, which have run down very low, and which are being drawn upon to meet the heavy military expenditures. It is well, therefore, that the market should keep the possibility of gold shipments in view, and that the Bank should seek to hold itself in a position to act effectively if the necessity arises. But with supplies so ample as they still are, it will be difficult to keep rates screwed up to their present level unless something occurs to justify the precautionary attitude which lenders have assumed.

The first leading article in the *Economist* is headed "The Truth about New York," and was published before the recent election. The writer begins by showing how misgoverned New York is, and then mentions the four candidates for the Mayoralty, whose holder, it says, "will have within his domain, which is as populous as Holland, all the powers of an ordinary King, while its governing council will be, in fact, a legislature." It then explains that New York is badly governed, because it deserves bad government. "Its people do not, to judge by their usual votes, sincerely wish for a rigidly upright Administration. If they did, they could get it at once." The voters are not deceived as to the issues before them or the character of the candidates:—

They vote with their eyes open, the simple truth being that those who support the wrong man do it because they prefer a corrupt and easy Administration to a rigidly upright one. They think taxation on themselves will be no heavier, and that its proceeds will be more "diffused" in small appointments, little but profitable contracts, and high wages. They do not exactly delight in corruption, but they will tolerate it rather than that the "spoils" system should come abruptly to an end. When Tammany rules, the magistrates are inefficient, but they wink at the things the people wish to be winked at; the streets are in bad order, but the crowds of men engaged to repair them draw good wages for light work done when they please.

In fact, New York is one of the few places on earth which justify the fears of the old opponents of democracy. They all said that democracy would over-tax the rich, and in New York the rich are taxed till they are driven to defend themselves by illegal means. They said that the favourites of the mob would be above the law, and every New Yorker admits that to induce a jury to return a verdict against a "boss" is next to impossible. They said, above all, that the majority would prefer liberal expenditure to light taxation, and they do prefer it, because the expenditure does not come out of their pockets and does go into them. The one thing they did not say is, that democracy would not pity the acute misery of the residuum, but that also has in New York turned out to be the case. It is, in fact, democracy and nothing else which is responsible for the bad government of the city, and its consequent ill-repute. That the sovereign democracy can reform itself is, of course, true, as it is true of a king or of an oligarchy, and on Tuesday it may show an inclination to do it; but meanwhile, there is no sense in lifting from its shoulders an opprobrium which it rightly deserves. The people can go bad or be good—as an Emperor can go bad or be good—that is the true lesson of New York.

The second leader is on "The Crisis in the Dual Monarchy," and the writer proposes to show that the diversity of the elements that compose the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the inflexibility of its Constitution, are its safeguards. The Magyars do not want to be driven into a contest with the Slavs, which might mean their subjection to Russia; the Germans do not want to come under the rule of the German Emperor; the business men and shipowners of Trieste and Fiume do not want to become Italians. The Reichsrath is not a House of Commons, and its jurisdiction is very limited, and instead of closing it, the Emperor should completely reform its rules. "Before the final plunge (if we can call it a plunge) is taken, the Government might at least prepare rules for the regulation of procedure in the Reichsrath, which would have the effect of ending the chaos which at present makes that body a source of wonder to the world." It must be remembered that there has been serious disorder in Bohemia since this rather optimistic article was written.

The next article is headed "The Bimetallist Fiasco," and in it the *Economist* reprints Senator Wolcott's proposals, and says that it would have been much better

if the Government had frankly stated at once that they were impossible, without throwing the burden of their rejection on the Indian Government. The writer concludes by saying:—

Surely, our Government ought to be able to say whether or not they are prepared to accept such a proposal as that they should bind this country to buy £10,000,000 worth of silver annually, and if they are not prepared to come under such an obligation, what is the use of practically encouraging France and the United States to continue negotiations which can only end in failure, and may do much harm, by unsettling people's minds, and especially by putting obstacles in the way of the much-needed currency reform in the United States. With the refusal of India to reopen her mints, the possibility of getting France to enter into an international bimetallic arrangement ceases. That is a deathblow to the bimetallic aspiration. And it is neither kind to them nor does it serve any but a bad end, to buoy them up with false hopes.

And there is an article interesting to investors headed "From Rhodesia to Klondyke."

It will be interesting to those who are so afraid of German competition in manufactures to mention that, according to the *Economist's* Berlin correspondent, the German makers of bicycles are petitioning for an increase of the import duty from 2 marks to 20 marks on each bicycle.

On the front page of the *Saturday Review* are some very interesting personal notes on the late Lord Rosmead, better known as Sir Hercules Robinson:—

And so Lord Rosmead is dead! It seems but the other day that we sat with him in his room at Government House, Capetown, and talked of the Raid that had just taken place, and lamented its foolish inception, the tragic disunion of the two races which it had brought about, and the natural suspicion which it would undoubtedly leave as a legacy to the future of South Africa. Our talk ranged over many subjects, for we had not met for some time, and had been in the past on fairly intimate terms. It is interesting now to remember three points which Sir Hercules Robinson made and which surprised us greatly at the moment.

First of all, he spoke of Mr. Chamberlain. He represented the Colonial Secretary as a busybody. "All the negotiations with Khama and Bathoen and Sebele could have been conducted here," he said emphatically. "But Mr. Chamberlain took it upon himself to conduct them all in London, and that led to endless mischief. I didn't know where I was and had to call Newton to Capetown, and so remained in ignorance of Jameson's movements. I knew of the first two troops of the Matabeleland force that came southward to Pitsani, but I never heard of the other troops. It was all Chamberlain's fault."

"Of course, he is taking all the credit of having issued the proclamation that stopped any possible rising on the part of the Johannesburgers, and of having sent me to Pretoria to prevent a row between Krüger and his subjects in Johannesburg, or, what would have been worse still, a row between Krüger and England in regard to Krüger's prisoners, whereas he absolutely counted for nothing in the whole business. On my own responsibility I sent the telegram to recall Jameson, and issued the proclamation commanding all the Queen's subjects in the Transvaal to give neither aid nor assistance to Jameson or his force. In fact I never had a word from Chamberlain till I was getting on board the train on Thursday to go to Pretoria, and then his wire merely told me that he approved of what I had done and intended doing."

"And now he claims all the credit. The man is not a gentleman. No gentleman would act so to his subordinates. By the way, there's a good story about him. A man, talking to one of the principal officials at the Colonial Office about Chamberlain's appointment as Colonial Secretary, said, 'My goodness, I pity you now, with Chamberlain as your master: you're not likely to have what Americans call a good time of it.' 'Oh,' replied the permanent official, shrugging his shoulders, 'he'll be too busy intriguing against his colleagues in the Cabinet to give us much

trouble.'" And Sir Hercules laughed, with keenest appreciation of the thrust.

The second point Sir Hercules made was with regard to Mr. Rhodes. "But, after all," we said, "Rhodes was the first, wasn't he, to say that English dominion in South Africa should run from Table Mountain to the Zambesi?" "Nonsense," replied Robinson; "that Table Mountain story is bosh. Bartle Frere was before me and before Rhodes, and almost his first speech in Capetown was that the dominion of England should stretch from Capetown to the Zambesi. Rhodes is not an innovator; he's a millionaire!"

The third point Sir Hercules made was as to the meaning of the 1884 Convention with the Transvaal. "People in England insist," we said, "that the suzerainty was implied in the 1884 Convention as it was explicit in that of 1881; is this true?" "Well," he said, "I ought to know, as I drafted it. The meaning 'suzerainty' was withdrawn and the word left out purposely. Krüger was not content with the 1881 Convention because of the claim to suzerainty, and we meant to withdraw the claim in 1884. What's the good of claiming more power than you've got?" We do not pretend that all these utterances of Sir Hercules Robinson were wise or discreet, but we cannot refuse our gratitude to a public servant who in a moment of great difficulty acted boldly in the true interests of the Empire. If the Dutch in Cape Colony are still loyal to the English connection the credit is chiefly due to him who was Lord Rosmead.

The *Saturday* has not yet come to the end of its dispute with Mr. Henry Norman and the *Daily Chronicle*, and after all the matter is not of much general interest. "Africanus" writes an article with a very clear account of the origin of the trouble in West Africa between France and England. The writer points out that "when half-a-dozen irresponsible French lieutenants, in command of small numbers of excellent Senegalese soldiers and of large numbers of armed natives, dignified by the name of auxiliaries, enter a declared British Protectorate, in which are stationed the troops of a British Chartered Company, and into which are advancing troops of the Imperial Government, there is always a risk of collision." The officers are, of course, disavowed if they fail, while public opinion at Paris obliges the Government to support them if they succeed, previous understandings with England being quietly ignored. No doubt there are two sides even to this question, and we trust that the conference now sitting in Paris will succeed in arriving at an equitable pacific arrangement. There are two good articles on the late Henry George and Professor Palgrave.

From among a number of interesting Notes in the *Spectator* we extract the following three:—

The negotiations between France and England in regard to West Africa reached a sort of crisis at the beginning of the week. On Tuesday evening a semi-official note was published in the French newspapers of a very minatory character. The note began by stating that grave difficulties were likely to take place in the Borgu and Nikki regions because the Niger Company's officers were inciting the people to rebellion, and because the Senegal authorities had been obliged to hurry up troops as a preventive measure. The note goes on to point out that the British negotiators empowered to confer with the French negotiators "have been in Paris for more than a week, and everything leads to the belief that the British Government is seeking to let things drag on, and has no intention of discussing them." The note ends, "There is no doubt that means will be found to foil these tactics." If this note was really semi-officially inspired with the desire to influence English public opinion, we can only say that the French Foreign Office is very badly informed as to the best method of doing business with England. The result has been a most remarkably outbreak of unanimity of feeling in regard to the West African question. The whole English Press is supporting the British Government in the matter. We have given elsewhere our grounds for declaring that the Cabinet cannot

give way to France for the sake of a quiet life, and we will not attempt here to go into the details of the squabble. Talk about details just now is jogging the driver's elbow. We may note, however, that the angry growl with which the semi-official note was received here has had an extraordinarily sobering effect on the Parisian papers. They talk now of what a subject for regret it would be if the two countries were really to quarrel.

The quarrel between the Government of Austria and the German Opposition has become suddenly more acute. It is indispensable to renew the *Ausgleich*, or arrangement for equalising the position of Austria and Hungary, at all events for one year, and the Germans in the Cisleithan Parliament have decided to resist it by obstruction, so as to compel terms to be made with them. The majority, which does not care if the Constitution is suspended, is determined to make no concession, and it is very doubtful if the Bill can be got through. In that event it would be necessary for the Emperor to intervene with the strong hand, and either suspend the Constitution as impossible, or decree some radical change in it to which the population would not object. It is believed that his Majesty would adopt the second course, and propose the adoption of universal suffrage without debate, under the threat that if his advice were not accepted he would stretch his prerogative to establish the broader franchise by decree. As we have pointed out elsewhere, the Emperor favoured this change when the last deadlock occurred, and revolutionary as such an exercise of the prerogative seems to Englishmen, it is difficult to see whence resistance could arise. Insurrection is out of the question, and the first measure of the new Parliament would be a Bill of Indemnity for the Monarch's advisers.

The Cape Times of September 29th gives an account of a visit to the slave-market opened by the Cape Government in Cape Town, at which the Bechuana prisoners are disposed of to farmers who desire indentured labourers. Probably the account is a little written-up, but the ugly fact remains that a specially odious form of slavery—the sale of prisoners of war—has come into existence. But though we feel bound to make a protest in regard to the reaction against the English view of slavery which is taking place in South Africa, we do not say that the home Government is to blame. We gave responsible government to the Colony, and we cannot take back that gift. What we can do is to insist that the Imperial forces shall never be used to put down native risings without a strict agreement that the Colonial Office is to participate in the final settlement. Under ordinary circumstances we must look to the growth of a healthier sentiment in the Colony itself. We are glad to see signs of this in the meeting of the South African Political League, presided over by Mr. Rose-Innes, an account of which is given in a telegram in Thursday's Times. It is evident that Mr. Rose-Innes and his friends are bestirring themselves in the matter of the treatment of the natives. That is a hopeful sign. One meeting of protest at Cape Town is worth a hundred at Exeter Hall. Indeed we are not sure that action here does not sometimes do more harm than good, for it gives the men on the spot an excuse for not coming forward and sweeping their own doorsteps clean, to use Mr. Rose-Innes's metaphor.

The first leading article in the *Spectator* is on "The Dispute with France," and the gist of it is that the French, having successfully "bluffed" Lord Salisbury in Siam, Madagascar, and Tunis, are now trying the same game on the Niger. But Lord Salisbury is not sufficiently convinced that if we will not go to war with France over West Africa, neither does France want to go to war with us. The *Spectator* insists on the Government sticking up for our rights, but our negotiators will, of course, be sure that they are "right," and not mere claims. The *Spectator* thinks that a war between the United States and Spain is "something more than possible; it would almost certainly save the throne of Alfonso II." Mr. Spec agrees with the *Economist* in not believing that the Austrian Empire is in any danger of splitting up.

The death of the Duchess of Teck seems to have been felt throughout England as a personal loss; even Truth has nothing but good to say of her. Punch has the following little ode; but it strikes one as hardly an adequate memorial:—

H.R.H. MARY ADELAIDE OF TECK.

Royal by right of birth,
And royal by the sway that rules the heart,
Princess! the Hand that lays you low in earth
Leaves you in all our loves a place apart.

Bound not by blood alone,
Our Queen has held you here by dearer ties;
And from your life has sprung for England's throne

The mother of our kings that yet shall rise.

So must your memory stand:
But still of other praise the best shall be:—
"She had the gentle smile, the open hand,
The unforgetting heart of Charity!"

NOTICES OF BOOKS, ETC.

The Chinese Recorder and Missionary Journal. Shanghai, December, 1897. The American Presbyterian Mission Press.

"View-point" is a deservedly much used word nowadays, and in introducing the subject of "The Importance of Right Methods" in the opening article of this month's *Recorder*, the Rev. P. F. Price points out that as regards methods of mission work there are apparently three points of view: "First, of those who are attached to some particular method and see little good in any other; second, of those who, like a writer in the October *Recorder*, see 'no best methods'; and third, of those who look upon mission work as a science which, like theology, the queen of sciences, is based upon principles of Divine revelation." Certainly with a respectable body of known facts and verified observations, and the opportunity of drawing logical conclusions therefrom, mission work may be looked upon as a higher science. The writer of the article pleads for a patient investigation of those methods which are most in conformity with God's Word and the experience of the Church for nineteen hundred years. He takes occasion to point out that "no doubt much confusion has arisen already by not distinguishing between principle and method, and between methods that have a vital principle involved and methods that are optional. The place and style of preaching, the support of the evangelist, whether by himself or the native Church, the proportion of time between itinerant and station work,—these and many other questions are largely left open to be determined by Christian prudence and adaptation to existing needs and circumstances. There may be a great variety of methods, all scriptural and all looking to the same happy result, even as there are diversities of gifts, but the same spirit. What may be a good method for one man in a given case may not be a good method for another. While this is true in some cases there are many other instances where a certain method is good and another method is bad, no matter who employs them."

The second article treats of "Philanthropy and Christian Missions," and in discussing it, the Rev. S. G. Tope evidently is of opinion that a source of large income to missions is being neglected by the missionaries. His main contentions are, that it is not the function of Christian missions to engage in works of pure philanthropy, and that the financial policy of mission institutions which proffer secular benefit to the Chinese, should be so framed as to furnish a liberal annual subsidy for purely evangelical mission work. In urging that the educational and medical branches of missions should aim at subsidising purely evangelical effort with funds secured from the Chinese for their services, Mr. Tope quotes from the *Handbook of Statistics*: Since these

were compiled we believe there has been a substantial increase in native payments, particularly in connection with educational work.

In his well-known racy manner Dr. Ashmore gives a survey of the Missionary Movement in China from 1807 to 1897. His graphic narration of the principal political events during that time, and his pen portraits of the parties participating in them prove good reading. It is rather significant that in the four distinct periods into which the time under review is divided the dividing line between each has been a war. First the Opium War—regarding the *casus belli* Dr. Ashmore remarks that "the insults put upon her diplomatic representatives would have led to a war by England in any other part of the world but China." The transition from the second period into the third was marked by the war with the Allies; whilst the war with Japan marks the transition into the fourth period—the present.

Among the other interesting items in this *Recorder* are "The Opium Habit" by Dr. J. G. Kerr; "Principles of Transliterating Proper Names in Chinese," by Dr. R. H. Graves; and "Taoism," by T. H. James.

We cannot close this notice without drawing attention to the graceful *memoriam* notice of the late Rev. J. A. Melrose, who died on the 16th of September, after seven successful years of missionary labour in Hainan. In the correspondence columns there is a letter from Newchwang, signed "J.C.," giving a very appreciative account of the late Mr. Andrew Happer; and the following account by the Rev. J. H. Laughlin of Chiningchou, Shantung, of the murder of the two German missionaries:—

The Ts'aochoufou region still lives up to its reputation for law breaking and general feindishness. Officials are kept busy investigating new crimes and imprisoning, beating, decapitating the perpetrators thereof. Yet the numbers of the out-laws do not seem to decrease, nor does their courage diminish. The latest and most brutal act was the slaughter of two German Catholic priests a week ago.

The priests had just erected a house in a village twenty-five miles west of this city. During the night of the 1st of November they were attacked by a band of men, over twenty, it is said, who, with knives and swords, speedily put an end to the poor victims.

A third priest, being in a different room, escaped. He and the natives of the compound, none of whom received injury, report that the whole affair was over in ten minutes. They found the wounded priests undressed, except as to sleeping garments; the one already dead, and the other past speaking. The former had nine wounds, the latter thirteen.

The *chihhsien* hastened to the spot in person as soon as he got word, and is said to have burst into tears when he saw the mutilated bodies. He and one of the dead priests had been good friends. In explanation of the foul deed there are several theories being advanced:—

1.—That it was a case of simple robbery and unprovoked murder by a band of banditti.

2.—Same as above, except that the murder was provoked by the priests first shooting one of the robbers. Some villagers are said to have seen the latter carry away a wounded or dead man.

3.—That workmen who had failed to secure employment in the building of the new house thus took revenge.

4.—That it was a case of revenge on the part of influential natives who had had a lawsuit with the Catholic Church.

5.—That it was an act of the *Ta Tao Hui* (Big Knife Society), between whom and the Catholics there is a bitter feud of some years' standing.

Whatever the explanation one can feel only sorrow for the two victims, one of whom I knew personally as an exceptionally gifted young man of about thirty-two years of age.

attractive in manner, and the only son of his old parents in Germany, whom may God comfort.

In the Editorial Comment, the descent on Kiaochou Bay by the Germans is treated at some length. It is laid down that this was a very high-handed measure, that cannot possibly be justified by international law, but the conclusion of the comment is:—"Alas! for China, that the general sentiment should be, 'It serves them right'; truly God is rewarding China according to her works, in the cup which she hath filled. He is filling to her double."

MESSRS. CASSELL'S PUBLICATIONS.

The November parts of the magazines issued by Messrs. Cassell and Co., Ltd., are to hand, with all their familiar excellence, and the impress of prosperity as the reward of popularity. The *Family Magazine* closes a volume, and for the new one we are promised an exciting story of Klondyke, by Mr. Headon Hill; a series of short stories by Mr. Max Pemberton; a serial by Mr. Barry Pain, and a variety of articles by writers of established repute. Noticing first the articles in the current number, "A Practising Barrister" contributes a chatty and informing paper upon the Temple—the centre of law and legal traditions—illustrated with a number of photographs of prominent lawyers. Incidentally, the writer points out the blunders which the artist perpetrated when he painted a picture that attracted a good deal of attention in the Academy and which was recently issued in a summer number. He points out that "consultations are not as a rule conducted in wig and gown; that the Q.C. (we suppose the gentleman in the chair is intended for a Q.C.) is not generally a very juvenile member of the bar; . . . that these people attend a consultation for business purposes, and not with the object of gazing sentimentally at their client—young and beautiful though she may be; nor, if they have landed her in a mess, will they give themselves away by looking at her in a 'well-you-are-in-a-devil-of-a-fix' sort of state." There is a very readable account of Mr. Dendy Sadler, the painter of many popular fishing pictures; Mr. John Foster Fraser, one of the three round-the-world cyclists, relates experiences cycling over the Caucasus Mountains and there is a very interesting sketch of the career of the author of *The Christian*. Two extracts from it may be ventured upon:—

At the age of seventeen Mr. Hall Caine was the teacher of a school on Manghold Head—a wild, desolate spot a mile or so from Ramsey, where he was literally "passing rich on £40 a year." His pupils were the sons and daughters of peasant farmers scattered about the neighbourhood, some of them being almost as old as their teacher. The young schoolmaster of Manghold Head, however, had a reputation all round the countryside for shrewdness and scholarship. His information and advice would constantly be asked by old farmers and their wives—about the making of a will, the payment of a debt, and similar other troubles to poor, unlettered people. Every farm or cottage for miles around was "open house" to him, and it was largely at that time that Mr. Caine gained his wonderfully intimate knowledge of the life and character of the common people in Manxland. All over the island the novelist is exceedingly popular, but among the Manghold people the feeling for him is one of personal affection. The old boys and girls of the school are never tired of telling how he taught them to read and write. A short time ago they got up a recital from Shakespeare in his honour.

Mr. Hall Caine is not a native of the island—a circumstance which occasions him, I fancy, some amount of sentimental regret. Both his parents were Manx to the backbone, and it was in the nature of an accident that their first-born saw the light in a Lancashire town. Their home at the time was a small farm near Ballaugh, in the north-west corner of the island, the freehold of which had

passed for several generations from father to son. At this farmhouse Mr. Hall Caine's childhood was spent, with the exception of short periods when he was staying with relatives at Liverpool, or other places in England. Two or three years ago, when his fame had gone forth to the four quarters of the globe, Mr. Hall Caine returned to the Isle of Man to make it again his home. For some time he resided at Greeba Castle, a fine edifice almost in the centre of the island, which, with its ivy-covered stone walls, might have belonged to mediæval times. As a matter of fact, it was built in the early years of this century, and has the comfort of modernity as well as the beauty of antiquity. Mr. and Mrs. Caine soon grew discontented with the castle, and began to plan considerable alterations. They lived for a time at Peel, in one of the short series of marine villas of the conventional type, pending the enlargement of the castle more in accordance with Mr. Caine's sense of the picturesque.

The *Saturday Journal* began a new volume with the November part. Besides some excellent fiction, including the commencement of a new serial by Mr. Frank Barrett, there are numerous chatty articles on popular subjects, notes on well-known people, etc. In the course of an interview Sir William Flower gave some interesting particulars of the work connected with the fine Natural History Museum at South Kensington, which he directs.

"I suppose by this time, Sir William," began the interviewer "natural history objects are as unoriginal to you as a human being is to his fellow-men?"

"That is quite a false impression," Sir William replied emphatically, "Why, the living things with which we are acquainted are very small in proportion to those which exist. Take birds, for example. A collection never comes in but what it is found to contain numbers that have never been seen before. It will, no doubt, surprise you to learn that every year thousands of new specimens are added to the Museum."

"In the matter of beetles, again. Say a man goes out to Africa, and sends home a collection of from four to five hundred, it is quite likely that half of that quantity may be new discoveries. We are always meeting with something new. During the last year for which I have figures there were no fewer than 48,600 additions to the Museum. These included 27,463 new insects, 10,561 birds, 1,006 animals, and 1,448 reptiles."

"Now tell me about your collection, Sir William. How do you enrich it?"

"Well, a great many things we buy, and, of course, a large number are presented. We spend about £5,000 on purchases every year, and £3,000 on the preparation, stuffing, and mounting of exhibits. Sometimes members of our staff go abroad and collect, but in most cases collectors go out on their own account, and on the understanding that we are to have the first pick of whatever they send home. We have sometimes paid £2,000 for a collection of fossils or insects, and a few years ago we bought a collection of beetles for £2,500, but it was an extraordinarily fine one."

"Not a day passes but large boxes of specimens are brought to the Museum. For every present that comes in we send a special letter of thanks, and, on an average we dispatch every year something like, 1,500 acknowledgments. Of course, these presents frequently include several hundred specimens, each of which has to be examined. We have quite 50,000 eggs in the Museum, and one collection alone comprises 28,000 Indian birds' eggs."

The first paper in the *Quiver* is by Dr. Barnardo, giving a vivid account of his great work for the rescue of waifs and strays. During their thirty-one years' existence the institutions under him have rescued from the slums and perils of destitution 32,402 waif children who have been trained, educated, and placed out in life, or are now in the homes still under training. At present nearly 5,000 are actually in residence, for the most part children who would otherwise be absolutely homeless. Within the past twenty-five years 9,450 trained boys and girls have been placed

out in situations in the colonies, and reports from the Government of Canada show that the failures among these emigrants are less than 2 per cent. "A Missionary," contributes a short paper on "The Gods of China," illustrated from native prints and photographs; there is a poem by Sir Lewis Morris, and a variety of articles on more or less religious subjects, as well as some clever fiction.

Outports.

ICHOUFU—SHANTUNG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

TRAMPS.

This city is still feeling the effects of the failure of crops in the South. The harvests in this region were fairly good but the alarming reports from Kiangsu and other quarters have given the farmers a good excuse to put up prices to the highest notch. There will be much suffering this winter. At this season the roads are usually filled with refugees going South, but this year the movement is reversed and hundreds of wretched families are to be met with making their way northward. It is some relief to one's feelings to be told that many of these are cases of many years' standing who have discovered that it pays thus to change their abode and play the rôle of honest farmers driven by stern necessity to return at any cost to their ancestral homes and to lay special claim to public charity on this score.

POSSIBLE RAILWAYS.

We residents in the interior are accustomed to amuse ourselves and others, especially others, by laying out imaginary lines of railroad which invariably pass through the place where the amateur engineer may happen to reside and connect him with all the places which he would particularly like to reach. For example, your correspondent devoted many frame-racking hours in the course of a recent journey to Chinanfu to observing how comparatively easy it would be to build a line of railroad from Tientsin to Ts'ingkiangpu via Chinanfu, T'angganfu, and Ichoufu. His line has this consideration in its favour that it simply follows the historic "Great Road." A highway which has been in use for many centuries is apt to have some solid reason for existing. It is said that several if not all of the great trans-continental lines in the United States simply follow ancient Indian trails, and the Russian line now nearing completion seems to be following the post-road. The roads to Manchuria, Peking, and Hankow illustrate the same principle, ergo, there is hope even for out-of-the-way Ichoufu.

OUR PREFECT TING,

who has been prostrated for several months by paralysis, although quite a young man to suffer from such a disease, is able to make calls once more. He is not able to walk without assistance so that those honoured by his call, as were we, are expected to "arrest his chariot" before it is necessary for him to actually leave his chair.

26th November.

CLARKE'S WORLD-FAMED BLOOD MIXTURE.

—"The most searching Blood Cleanser that science and medical skill have brought to light." Sufferers from Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples, and Sores of any kind are solicited to give it a trial to test its value. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Sole everywhere at 2s. 9d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

NANKING.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE NANKING ASSOCIATION

held its regular monthly meeting last evening and maintained its reputation for producing an interesting programme. The mind of the Nanking resident was called away from the petty round and asked to consider the great question of finance. A debate on the desirability of a nation adopting a gold standard was argued affirmatively by Dr. Jellison and negatively by Dr. Macklin. Others argued on either side until someone suggested that all financiers were divided into two classes, those with sense (cents) and those without. There seemed to be a feeling that the majority of the association were of the latter class and the discussion closed with a sense of want. The question was left undecided, but it was very evident that it could be said of each speaker that: "Though vanquished he could argue still." The spicy *Budget* and some very good music completed a pleasant evening.

SPEEDING A PARTING GUEST.

Our community suffers a great loss in the departure of the Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Ferguson. The former goes to Shanghai to assume the duties of President of the new University started by H.E. Sheng. Mr. Ferguson has been prominent and very helpful in our community life and his enterprising activity has been most marked in the success of the University of the Methodist Mission here. When leaving he received very flattering attentions from the Chinese who testified to the high esteem in which he was held by them. Mrs. Ferguson goes from us greatly regretted; her social qualities and musical ability are highly appreciated by the Nanking community, while their home has ever been an attractive and welcome place to their friends.

THE MINT.

Nanking has had a valuable accession in the coming of Mr. Martin Priest who takes up the duties of assayer at the new Mint. The buildings of the mint make an imposing appearance. They are large and well built, supplied with the most modern machinery, and will soon be turning out cash and coin in abundance.

11th December.

SOOCHOW.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

WESTERN LEARNING.

There is a well-conducted school in the northern end of Soochow, under the general superintendence of the Soochow Telegraph Office. In this school there are six teachers of Chinese language and literature and two teachers of English—all natives. Geography and mathematics are taught to a very limited degree. There are 50 or 60 students, some of whom have taken the degree of B.A. in the government examinations. They have a new building for their accommodation. It contains several large apartments where the students sleep, eat, and study. They pay \$5 each *per mensem*. Advertisements calling for more pupils are posted all over the city and the school is growing steadily.

BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.

The native benevolent institutions of Soochow were described by the Rev. T. C. Britton of the American Baptist Mission (South) in a paper read on the 2nd of December before the Soochow Literary Association. I enclose a copy from which you may make extracts *ad libitum*, when you have room.

8th December.

LONDON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE LATE DUCHESS.

Simple and unostentatious as it was, the funeral of the Duchess of Teck at Windsor on Wednesday proved quite as affecting and impressive in its way as the stately ceremonial with which the Duke of Clarence was laid to rest a few years ago. The beautiful chancel of St. George's Chapel, where the funeral service was held, requires no funeral draperies to give solemnity to such an occasion; and the banners of the Knights of the Garter overhead supplied the colour which was lacking through the paucity of military uniforms. The body had been quietly conveyed from the White Lodge in Richmond Park almost without ceremony on the previous evening, and there was therefore no funeral procession; but crowds of people gathered about the precincts of the Castle to watch the assembling and the departure of the royal and distinguished mourners. Yesterday, too, there was a stream of sympathetic and interested sight-seers constantly passing through the Albert Chapel, in the vaults of which the body will rest, to see the profusion of choice flowers which had been sent as memorials not only from royal relatives and distinguished friends of the Princess but from the numerous charitable and philanthropic societies for which she laboured.

THE CONSERVATIVE LEADERS

have woke up to the necessity of defending their policy in the constituencies. Last night Mr. Balfour at Norwich and Mr. Chamberlain at Glasgow replied with great vigour and at considerable length to the criticisms which have recently been passed upon the foreign policy of the Government by Sir William Harcourt, Mr. John Morley, Mr. Asquith, and Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman, while on the same evening the Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered an oration of a necessarily somewhat less aggressive type at the Cutlers' Feast at Sheffield. Mr. Balfour devoted himself mainly to the charge of bad faith in the retention of Chitral and entered into a very eloquent defence of Lord Elgin against the attacks of those who are supposed to be his political friends. Mr. Chamberlain dealt mainly with the Eastern Question, and had a fairly easy task in his endeavour to demonstrate the success of Lord Salisbury's diplomacy in the Concert of the Powers. "Acting under the sympathy of a hundred busy-bodies," he said, "Greece commenced a war in which she had been beaten, and she had been saved by Lord Salisbury from the most serious consequences of her action," and this Mr. Chamberlain contends will be recognised by history as a great and magnificent feat.

THE LOSS OF MIDDLETON.

It was a little unfortunate, however, that these three Conservative leaders should have chosen the day of the Middleton by-election for fulminating their thunder. The news that a Conservative seat had been lost, and a majority of over nine hundred turned into a minority of just three hundred must have come as an anti-climax at the end of these eloquent orations. Of course the Government with a majority of close upon a hundred and fifty can afford to lose a few by-elections; but it is discouraging to find that there is a wave of reaction in the constituencies, even if it does no immediate harm. The *Times* attributes the defeat in this Lancashire country division to bimetalism, and no doubt the feeling in favour of bimetalism is pretty strong in Lancashire. But the bimetalists surely know that they have even less to hope for from the Liberals than from the Conservatives.

LORD RECTOR CHAMBERLAIN.

More interesting than any of these political speeches was the address which Mr. Chamberlain delivered on Wednesday as Lord Rector of Glasgow University. It is rather curious that the University which rejected Sir Walter Scott on the ground of his lack of academic distinction should have elected Mr. Chamberlain as its head; but the Colonial Secretary is very proud of his distinction, and he has virtually promised to justify his selection by becoming one of the founders of a new University in the Midland counties of England. "Patriotism" was the subject of his address. He had not, it must be confessed, anything very strikingly original to say on the subject but his address was decidedly interesting—not merely in itself but for the light which it threw on Mr. Chamberlain's own view of his position in politics. The administrative functions of the Government are, Mr. Chamberlain holds, totally distinct from its legislative functions. With one party politics must necessarily have everything to do, with the other they should have nothing to do. The mission of this country is "to build up and consolidate that great edifice of Imperial dominion which is now as much a necessity of our national existence as it is a legitimate source of national pride." And it is to the furtherance of this mission that Mr. Chamberlain wishes to devote himself. He did not say that in order to retain the power to promote this great mission he was prepared to swallow a considerable number of political convictions in regard to such minor questions as education and religion, but doubtless this is what he meant.

BRITON AND BOER.

And for the moment Mr. Chamberlain is on the pinnacle of success as Colonial Minister. Even those who believe that he was deeply compromised in the Transvaal Raid have to admit that his conduct since has been eminently correct. He is able to boast that the soreness between Briton and Boer caused by the raid is fast disappearing, and that there is a better feeling between the two races than has existed for a long time past. And the opening of the Bulawayo Railway yesterday has even created a new wave of sympathy on behalf of Mr. Rhodes. His determination to work for his great idea of a federated South Africa in which British influence shall be predominant has been proved by this achievement to be as strong as ever. In spite of his disastrous error of two years ago Boer will share with Briton the commercial advantages which this great private enterprise will bring; and it is difficult for the most bitter opponent of the raid not to feel proud of this latest achievement of British colonising power, and even grateful to Mr. Rhodes for his lion's share in the work.

THE BENCH.

Lord Hastings' latest appointment to the Judicial Bench, Mr. A. M. Channell, Q.C., has met with much more favour from the Bar than that of Mr. Darling. Although Mr. Channell's name was not particularly familiar to the general public, he was known to the Bar generally as a profound lawyer; and as he has never taken any part in politics it is in no sense a political appointment. His name once gave Sir Frank Lockwood an opportunity for a capital *bon mot*—if a story that is told of them is true. They were engaged on opposite sides in a case about a ship, which Sir Frank Lockwood persistently called the *Helen*, and Mr. Channell the *Ellen*. At last the Judge interposed and enquired what was the real name of the vessel. "Her name was the *Helen*, My Lord," Sir Frank replied, "but she has lost an 'h' in the chops of the Channell." Mr. Darling, by the way, has begun rather well. In spite of

the fact that his Court was crowded on the day of his first sitting, with people who seemed to be watching eagerly for signs of the incompetence which has been so freely attributed to him, he retained his self-possession admirably, and within half-an-hour or so had made his first judicial joke—and it was quite up to the average of jokes from the Bench. He may after all justify the Lord Chancellor's selection.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

The poor old Crystal Palace has had a worse season than ever this year and the prospect of its demolition and the sale of the site for building land has come within measurable distance. It would be a thousand pities if this palace of delights and historic memories should disappear, and there is a movement on foot for its public purchase. But the directors want three-quarters of a million for it, and it is difficult to see what could be done with it if the public bought it. It would be far better if it could be carried on by private enterprise and subsidised—as it would be in any other country. But the principle of subsidies for places of amusement has never gained favour in this country.

5th November.

(FROM OUR LADY CORRESPONDENT.)

DEATH OF THE DUCHESS OF TECK.

"It is our mournful duty to record" or, "it is our painful duty to announce" or, "we are grieved to have to inform our readers!" So daily papers broke to the world the sad news of the death of one who it is safe to say, next to Her Majesty herself, will be more missed than any woman of our day. To say that England mourns as though it had lost a dear friend is not using language in any degree too strong. She was the friend of all, high and low, rich and poor; from the early days when as the genial Princess Mary she won all hearts, till last week when at the time of her death the passages at White Lodge were filled with packages ready to be sent off to the Imperial Institute for the sale of work (which was opened yesterday) in which she took such deep interest, for the relief of the poor women left destitute in the famine-stricken districts of Delhi, Ludhiana, and Lucknow. Her life has been one long act of love and charity. Those who knew her best tell us she was never idle; even when entertaining her guests she generally had some small piece of charity work in her hands, sewing industriously while she talked, and truly Londoners during these past ten days have showed how they appreciate the loss they have sustained. I was in the West End about three hours after the news was first known. Even then in Bond Street and Regent Street the majority of the shops had black shutters up, and even before the order for general mourning was issued nearly half the people one met were dressed in black. I went into Regent Street on Monday to see some of the wreaths that were ordered to be sent to Windsor. One of the most beautiful was a heart of enormous size, composed entirely of Neapolitan violets, the outer band being about nine inches wide. Inside there was a coronet and the initials of the Duchess, likewise in violets, and all exactly matching in tint. There must have been many thousands of blossoms as there was no fern used. The effect was lovely. On the day of the funeral I was present at the memorial services held in St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey. The former was at one o'clock and was most impressive. The Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Sheriffs were present in their robes of office; also most of their wives, who had a special place allotted to them. The Cathedral was filled to the very doors, and hundreds were unable to gain admission. I was much struck by the quiet reverence of the vast assemblage. Almost everybody

wore black, and the interior of the cathedral presented a very sombre and impressive appearance. The altar and steps were draped with black and the only flowers used consisted of white arum lilies and feathery asparagus fern. Immediately before the arrival of the Lord Mayor and corporation Sir George Martin played Chopin's *Marche Funèbre* with fine effect. The service was short, consisting of a processional hymn, "O God our help in ages past;" sentences; two Psalms; a hymn, "Now the labourer's task is o'er;" the lesson from the burial service, which was most impressively read by the Dean; a short anthem, "Blessed are the dead;" another Psalm; some prayers; and the anthem, "Blest are the departed" from Spohr's *Last Judgment*, all beautifully rendered by the choir—after this the "Dead March" from *Saul*, during which all the vast congregation remained standing, and all was over. Quietly and reverently the people dispersed, but I don't think any who were present will ever forget that solemn service.

The usual three o'clock service at Westminster was likewise converted by means of special hymns and anthems into a memorial service fitting to the sad occasion. After a hurried lunch I wended my way thither and thanks to the magic of the word "Press" managed to get a good place, though again numbers could not gain admission. The special hymn chosen was "Thy will be done," a great favourite with the deceased Duchess, and the anthems "Thou knowest Lord" (Purcell) and "Yea though I walk" (Sullivan) were beautifully rendered by the choir. The service closed with special prayers for the Queen and the family of the Duchess, and then came Chopin's lovely march, played most exquisitely, and the huge congregation dispersed. I was much struck at both services by the large percentage of men present—all in black, or at any rate very dark clothing. I think it says much in these busy times that men will give up a portion, be it only a small portion, of their time to do honour to the dead—one is too apt in the hurry-scurry of life to forget what one owes to those who are gone.

OTHER NOTABLE DEATHS.

Not only has the Duchess left us, but three men at least who have left their mark in the world—and a big mark too—have passed away during the past ten days.

LORD ROSMEAD,

better known as Sir Hercules Robinson, at one time Governor of New South Wales, and until lately Governor of South Africa. His health broke down under the strain put upon it during the last months of his residence in that colony. While his personal honour survived unscathed the suspicions cast upon it in connection with the Jameson Raid, the incident could hardly be otherwise than damaging to his reputation as High Commissioner. On the one hand he was accused of being privy to all that went on, on the other he was blamed for want of knowledge. Whatever justice there may be in the second criticism it is certain that no one could have done more than he did after the Raid to avert the worst possibilities of the situation, and no one would have rejoiced more than he had he been alive to-day at the news that has come through of the opening of the railway to Bulawayo, an event that must be considered of more than usual importance in the history of South Africa. Three or four years ago Bulawayo was but the kraal of a savage king, now it is a prosperous township with wide streets, shops, theatres, shady trees, and probably a branch of the Salvation Army—that I can't vouch for, but a man lately returned from there was describing it to me a few days ago and it sounded more like a fairy tale than anything else. The growth of Coolgardie is wonderful but Bulawayo far more so.

COLONEL CHARD

adds another name to the glorious record of great men gone from us. As the hero of Rorke's Drift his name will always be a household word. In January, 1879, he and Lieutenant Bromhead with a mere handful of men defended a line of biscuit boxes and mealie bags against a whole impi of Zulu warriors. The Drift consisted of two stone buildings, one of which was a hospital sheltering thirty-five sick men. How they fought and how they conquered is a matter of history, and M. de Neuville in his wonderful picture (which I always consider ought never to have been allowed to find its home out of England) has made us see it all for ourselves so that we can never forget it. It is said that Colonel Chard always maintained that he and Lieut. Bromhead did not deserve the Victoria Cross that Her Majesty bestowed upon them, because they simply fought for dear life, but I think public opinion would not have been satisfied had less honour been conferred upon them. Greatness and modesty are generally linked hand-in-hand.

HENRY GEORGE,

a man of a totally different stamp, but one who has undoubtedly left "footprints on the sands of time," has likewise passed away. During his lifetime he undoubtedly tried to educate the masses and improve the morals of his fellow men, and to a certain extent he succeeded. His aim was to carry purity and reform into perhaps the most corrupt and rotten of municipal systems, and the struggle killed him.

"DIARMID."

A new opera is always a matter of interest to anyone in the least degree musical, but when the composer is an amateur of more than usual promise and the *libretto* is from the pen of a son-in-law of Her Majesty the interest deepens almost into excitement. At any rate it was with some such feelings that I went to see *Diarmid*, Mr. Hamish McCunn's new opera, at Covent Garden theatre last week. Rarely has an opera had better chances of success. All the *artistes* who took part in it did the very best that could be done with their respective characters. Mr. Brozel in the name part sang splendidly. Madame Marie Durna could not have been better than she was as Grania, and Miss Kirby Lunn made a charming Eila. The chorus was generally good though the tenors went very flat at times. London, I suppose. The scenery was good and the dresses pretty, though I should say not of the second century period, but with all this I am afraid I was very disappointed. One duet, "The Rowan and the Cherry," is pretty, and in the first act Eila has a charming solo, but if I am asked "will the opera live and prosper" I am afraid I must say no. In five years time I fear we shall not hear it, or even in two I think a manager will be brave who puts it on. In the music Mr. McCunn has followed Wagner, but afar. For his book the Marquis of Lorne has gone back to the old, old tale of Achilles and in the end the hero dies through not being invulnerable in his heel; otherwise it is the well-worn tale of love, a faithless wife, and a husband's revenge. I went on Tuesday to see

"THE FIRST-BORN."

one of the two Chinese plays about which there has been so much excitement just lately. The two companies, *The Cat and the Cherub* and *The First-Born*, started to race over from America, both of them apparently wishing to be the first to show Londoners what a Chinese play was like acted by Americans. *The Cat and the Cherub* won and opened at the Lyric last Saturday. I am going to see it to-morrow so will report on it in my next letter. *The First-Born* opened on Monday. It is interesting and very quaint, two of the characters, Mr. J. H. Benrimo as a

Chinese pipe-bowl mender, and Miss May Buckley as a bond-woman, being particularly good. There are five Chinese in the cast and they chatter away in their native tongue in a way that Londoners find very amusing. The orchestra too has been augmented by Chinese instruments—the tom-tom and others I don't know the names of, but which make very strange music, more uncommon than pleasing. Altogether I thought the piece quite worth a visit, but whether London can support two Chinese plays, the plots of which are almost exactly the same, at the same time, remains to be proved.

On Tuesday I went to see the *Silver Key* and *Catherine and Petrucchio* at Her Majesty's. The Trees are charming in both and Miss Evelyn Millard has improved immensely since I last saw her in the part of Mdlle. de Belle Isle. The pieces should both have long runs. I only hope they may as Mr. Tree deserves all the luck he gets.

J. K.

6th November.

PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE HUMAN COMEDY.

The singular family affairs of the Prince de Sagan are still a fruitful topic of conversation on the boulevards. It may be remembered that the Prince, who was for many years the arbiter of Paris ton—a sort of Gallio Ward McAlister—was struck down with cerebral paralysis about four months ago. He was separated from his wife some twenty years before and had latterly occupied rooms at a fashionable club in the Rue Royale. Here he remained after his seizure, under the care of his brother, the Duc de Montmorency, and his elder son, Count Hélie de Talleyrand-Périgord. The Prince's younger son, Count Boson de Talleyrand-Périgord, his mother's favourite, only occasionally saw his father. As for the Princess, though living in Paris she manifested no desire to see her husband until about a fortnight ago, when, at her instigation, Count Boson, under the pretext of taking his father for a drive, conveyed him to the Princess's house, where he still remains. The Prince's brother and elder son are indignant at this abduction, the more so as the Princess refuses to let Count Hélie pay more than a certain limited number of visits to his father. The Duc de Montmorency declares that his brother's mind is a complete blank, that he can neither recognise any of his friends nor utter a coherent remark and that it was impossible for him to have consented to his removal to the Princess's house. Moreover, the Duc de Montmorency affirms, the Prince de Sagan declared most positively, shortly before his illness, that he would never live with his wife. The Duke and his nephew have applied to the Courts for the restitution of their relative, and the eminent expert Dr. Brouardel has been instructed to see the Prince and ascertain the state of his mind. If the Prince is found to be without the use of his intellect, the Court will appoint a guardian, who may call upon the Princess to give her husband up.

According to what is said on behalf of the Princess, she was actuated solely by a spirit of forgiveness for past wrongs. She hated to think that her husband was lying in his bachelor quarters with no feminine hand to smooth his pillow. It is said, however, that the Princess's conduct is capable of a different interpretation. The Prince de Sagan is the son of Louis de Talleyrand-Périgord, generally known as the Duc de Valençay, now in his 87th year. The Duke has always allowed his son to use the title of Prince de Sagan but has retained the substantial privileges appertaining thereto. These privileges

(which include the German rank of Serene Highness and certain sovereign rights over the town of Sagan) will descend in due course to Count Hélie, who is not altogether in his mother's good graces. Should the Prince de Sagan die before his father, the Princess would lose that title and have to be content with the minor one she received at her marriage. She would, in addition, lose what would come to her after her husband's death should he first succeed his father: the large annuity settled upon every widowed Duchesse de Talleyrand-Périgord, the German dignities and the fine chat-au of Valençay. Her interest therefore is that her husband should survive his father. The Princess might argue that, under these circumstances, she could be relied upon to take care of her husband. But what would the position be if the old Duc de Valençay should die first? The Princess would no longer have any pecuniary interest in her husband's welfare, and his guardian might have to remove the husband from the wife's custody. The whole affair is a grim comedy: the helpless, unconscious invalid abducted by the wife whose face he had not seen for twenty years, the race to death between the octogenarian father and the stricken son, the brilliant man of fashion lying, a body without a mind, unconscious of the intrigues around his couch, the wife and mother reckoning on the riches and dignities which Death is to give her, the house divided against itself: verily, the preacher desiring to show the vanity of riches need go no further for his text than this.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

The most prominent topic of the week is the revival of the Dreyfus case. M. Scheurer-Kestner, Vice-President of the Senate, a man of high character and disinterested motives, has been supplied with evidence which he believes will prove the prisoner's innocence. What this evidence is M. Scheurer-Kestner refuses to say until it has been laid before the authorities. Capt. Dreyfus, it will be remembered, was convicted of having copied a War Office paper for the benefit of the Germans, and the case against him rested largely on the opinion of an expert in handwriting. It is believed that the fresh testimony purports to show that the incriminating document was written by some person other than Dreyfus. Of course M. Scheurer-Kestner has been overwhelmed with abuse by the rabid section of the Press for daring to espouse the cause of a convicted traitor. Indeed, as one observer put it, the question became, not the guilt of Dreyfus but that of M. Scheurer-Kestner. The more moderate organs content themselves with the reflection that Dreyfus' brother officers would hardly have convicted him without ample evidence, but as the trial was held in strict secrecy the public has no means of knowing what that evidence was. Moreover, judicial errors are by no means unknown in France. However, M. Scheurer-Kestner will have to get up a very strong case indeed before the authorities will consent to reopen the affair.

THE DAY OF THE DEAD.

Last Sunday, being the one immediately preceding All Saints' Day, thousands of Parisians visited the cemeteries to lay flowers on the graves of their departed relatives. The *jour des morts*, as it is called, seems to be very near the heart of the sceptical Parisian. Even the poor work-girl, who has no ancestry to mourn, wends her way to the aristocratic shades of Père Lachaise to deposit a penny bunch of violets on the tomb of Heloise and Abelard or Mdlle. Juliette Frère, the original of Béranger's Lisette. The grave of Petit Pierre—the poor little child beaten to death by his brutal stepfather—was covered with wreaths last Sunday. Alfred de Musset's tomb is still a shrine of pilgrimage for disconsolate lovers. Young

dramatic aspirants hover around the tomb of Rachel and scribble their names on the stone when the keepers are not looking. On the other hand, there are sections of the cemetery which are forlorn and neglected. Père Lachaise is really a Paris in miniature. The sections that were in favour during the Empire, the Restoration, or the July monarchy are as unfashionable now as the Marais. Everybody who is anybody passes from the Boulevard St. Germain or the Boulevard Haussmann to a boulevard in Père Lachaise. The rates for concessions à perpétuité are steadily rising. This makes for exclusiveness. The rich whose bones lie here will not be jostled by the vulgar when the last trumpet sounds.

5th November.

Peking Gazettes.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTE.

Specially translated for the North-China Herald.

10th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the memorial of the Imperial Clan Court asking that an Assistant Supervisor of Hereditary Titles be appointed, we hereby appoint Hsü Hui-feng, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Rites, to undertake the said duties in addition to his other appointments.

(2) We have received the memorial of the Imperial Household Department asking that officers may be appointed to conduct the sacrificial worship at the temples of the tutelary gods of the Forbidden Precincts and the Outer cities of Peking. We hereby appoint Huai T'a-pu, President of the Board of Rites, and Li Shan, Senior Vice-President of the Board of Revenue, to conduct the said services.

Sung Ch'ien and Chi Lu are appointed to accompany the two sons of the empress to the Imperial Conscience of the late Emperor Tung Chün on his way to the Imperial Mausolea to-morrow.

11th October.

COURT CIRCULAR.

H.I.M. the Emperor will go to Eho Park to-morrow after the transaction of State affairs, to visit H.I.M. the Empress Dowager. The Court will attend.

A REFRACTORY NOBLE.

Ch'ung Huan, Gioro or member of the collateral branch of the Imperial Clan, and Imperial Resident at Ulaasut'ai, and Chih Jui, Vice-Resident of the same, jointly denounce A Yü-eh, a Mongol Duke and Djassack or Chief of a Mongol tribe, for defiance of the orders of his superiors and request the punishment of the said Duke in order to serve as an example to other nobles who may desire to disobey orders from Peking. It appears that in the early part of the month of July last the Captain-General of the league of the said refractory Duke reported to memorialists that the latter had failed so far to pay up certain monies which he was indebted to the State and the payment of which had been commanded by a former Imperial edict to be made at once. Further, that the said Duke had sent to the said Captain-General a report that the former had been overtaken with smallpox, in consequence of which he (the said Duke) asked permission to go to Peking to consult physicians and at the same time pray for an Imperial Audience. Upon the said Captain-General finding that the report of smallpox had no foundation at all and was only a pretext to get to Peking to seek some means of altering the edict about the payment of

the money, the said Captain-General refused to give his consent to the said Duke's petition. The said Duke, however, ignored his Captain-General's commands and started, immediately after his petition, by the grass-lands to Peking. The said Captain-General and the memorialists, therefore, ask his Majesty's decree to permit them to send fleet horsemen to prevent the said Duke from leaving the borders without first obtaining leave from the Throne, and that he be punished for disobedience to special orders of his superiors, and also that he be made to pay the money previously commanded by his Majesty's decree. As the Captain-General of a Mongol league of tribes is specially appointed by Imperial edict, it will be readily recognised that any disobedience to his orders is a defiance of the Throne itself, and that if once the matter be smoothed and glossed over without making an example of such refractory conduct it will be exceedingly difficult in the future to overawe the other Mongol nobles of the Territory. Even the memorialists rule by the authority and the majesty of the Throne and not by any force and pomp of their own, if then the majesty and authority of the Emperor be permitted to be contemned in Mongolia, there will be no end of difficulty in ruling these subjects of the Throne in the future. The memorialists, therefore, pray that the said Duke be removed from his post of *Djassack* and *Su-k'ê-su-lun*, Duke of *Linchih*, be appointed in his stead.—*Rescript: Granted.*

12th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ch'en Hsiao-fên is appointed Literary Chancellor of Chêkiang, vice Hsü Shu-min transferred to Peking.

(2) Ch'êng Ch'uan is appointed Superintendent of the Imperial silk looms at Hangchow, capital of Chêkiang province.

13th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Ch'ing Mien, Supervising Censor and also Police Censor of the Middle city, and his colleagues request that, owing to the general distress still observable amongst the people living in the suburbs of the capital, the usual grants of rice for the gruel shops during the coming winter be still carried on this year, and a list of the stations that need grants has been presented with this memorial. We agree with the memorialists that the poor of Peking and suburb will still require subsistence during the coming cold weather and therefore by special act of grace command that 300 piculs of rice be issued by the granaries for distribution amongst the gruel stations in the Middle, East, South, West and Northern cities, and that the gentry therein be given the necessary authority from the Board of Revenue to distribute the said relief to the poor of the said five cities.

(2) Another memorial by the said memorialists asking that rice be also granted to the Refugees in the various cities for feeding the aged and helpless poor who gather in them during the winter. We hereby command that 300 piculs of rice be given to the three Refugees named Ch'ung Shan-t'ang, Pêh Shan-t'ang, and Kung Shan-t'ang; 300 piculs to the Mahomedan Refuge in the Mosque in Chiaotze Street; 150 piculs to the Refugees in the Nanhai Buddhist temple, outside the Ch'ao-yang gate, the Yü'ing Taoist temple, outside the Ch'ungwên gate, and the Shanghai Refuge in the suburbs; 300 piculs to the Hsiehyu-t'ang, outside the Hsienwu gate; 150 piculs to the Mahomedan Mosque, outside the Ch'ao-yang gate, and 300 piculs to the Refuge at the Little Market in the suburbs. In this way we trust that our helpless poor may have a little relief during the horrors of the coming winter.

14th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Têh Yün is appointed Junior Lieutenant-General of the garrison at the Ch'ung-wên gate.

(2) We received the other day a memorial from the Censor T'iang Shih-fên denouncing the incapacity and avarice of Shih Nien-tsu, Governor of Kuangsi, and further that he had been guilty of conspiring with Ho Chao-shan, the former acting Provincial Judge of Kuangsi, in preying upon the inhabitants of the said province. We therefore commanded Ch'ên Pao-chên, Governor of Hunan, to make secret investigations to see what foundations there were in the said charges and to report truthfully thereon to us. The report of the said Ch'ên Pao-chên is now before us in which he states that he has discovered that some of the charges had not been proved while in others there were reasons which led to the accused officials being suspected by outsiders of a partial complicity and improper conduct. But the main reason for all this was due to Shih Nien-tsu's confiding in unworthy and dishonest men, who using his name and authority committed depredations upon the people of Kuangsi, in consequence of which many unfavourable comments had reached Peking against the character of the said Governor. In view of this we hereby command that Shih Nien-tsu be handed over to the Board of Civil Appointments for an adequate penalty. With reference to Ho Chao-shan, Taotai of the Tai-ping-en-shun Intendancy of Kuangsi, and former acting Provincial Judge of said province, he had in truth been culpable of giving an unjust sentence in a case of the arrest of certain innocent people belonging to Chaopinghsien, in consequence of which there was an insurrection amongst the people of that district. He was also guilty of a hasty judgment in the case of prohibiting the export of rice from the department of Yunganchow. Then as for Shiang Wan-yung, the former acting Salt Intendant of Kueilinfu, who as an assistant judge in this important case was guilty of gratifying his private animosities in several instances, the conduct of the two above-named officers is too serious to be condoned and they are hereby cashiered and dismissed from office. As for Chao Lai-yang, then acting prefect of Pinglofu, who, upon finding that the men charged before him in the above case had revoked entirely their previous evidence, failed to use his best energies in trying to get to the bottom of their wrongs but, instead, sent up a report to the acting Judge requesting permission to punish them for not giving the same evidence as had been given in the lower Courts, this officer was truly guilty of incapability and he is therefore handed to the Board for adjudication of an adequate penalty. As for the petty officials in the said Governor's *yamen* who also tried the case and failed to see anything unusual in the conflicting evidence, etc., they are hereby cashiered and dismissed from their posts.

15th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Li Ching-ch'ün, the commoner who appealed to us in the streets this morning, is hereby handed to the Board of Punishments, which is commanded to investigate carefully the cause of his appeal to us.

(2) We have received the memorial of E-k'ê-t'ang-h, Tartar-General of Fêngtien and Military Governor of Moukden, asking that the newly appointed Civil Governor of Moukden be ordered to hasten to take up his post, owing to the accumulation of work and the inability of the memorialist to attend to it all. We hereby command T'ing Chieh, the Civil Governor-designate of Moukden, to come at once to Peking for his audience, after which he is to proceed

without delay to his new post to assist the said Tartar General.

(3) Li Ping-hêng, Governor of Shantung, sends us a list of deserving officials whose watchfulness and activity enabled them to patch up the breaches in the Yellow River at West Hanchiak'ou last month, in consequence of which the river could not do much damage, and also a list of officers who worked diligently and intelligently at the breach last year at Chaochia Gardens. We hereby grant the reward and promotions asked for in the case of certain of the officers named in the two lists. (Here follow the names of some seventy officials—*Translator.*) And the Board of War and Civil Appointments are hereby commanded to take note thereon.

16th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Appointing a number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial administrations.

(2) We appoint this day Ts'ing Jui to be Chief Examiner of the licentiate competitions in translation work of Chinese into Manchu, and vice versa, to be held next day at the Metropolitan Examination Halls, and Wên Hai is hereby appointed Vice-Examiner.

(3) Ying Shou and Wang Ting-hsiang are appointed Proctors of the Inner Halls, and Shu Tai and Chang Chao-lan are appointed Assistant Examiners.

(4) Wên Lieh, Chung Lien, Chêng Shih-chau, and Fêng Hsi-jên are appointed Searchers of Students in the said Examination Halls to prevent secret communications between competitors, "cribbing," etc.

17th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Prince Mu, (4th Order), Shan Chi, Chung Hsiu, Ch'ang Kuai and Yü Lin, officers of the Imperial Bodyguard, are commanded to act as Inspectors at the Examinations next day, of the Manchu Translators in the Paoho Throne-hall.

(2) P'êng Shou is appointed Searcher of Students at the Middle-Left gate of the Palace.

COURT CIRCULAR.

His Majesty will return to Peking from Eho Park to-morrow morning after transacting state affairs, and the Court will be held in the Capital until further notice.

18th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Kuo Lê-min, Lieutenant General of the Left Division of the Imperial Bodyguards, and Têh K'uei, Lieutenant-General of the Right Division, are hereby commanded to take a battalion each to form the outer guard around the Examination Halls this day.

(2) Sheng Nghê-lu, Hêng Nien, Yung Kuei, Ai Hsin-â, Lien Ch'uan, and En Hui, Manchu Consors, are hereby appointed Receivers of Translation Essays at the Examinations.

(3) Li Hung-K'uei having presented a memorial this morning asking to be excused from the post of Vice-Chancellor of the Examination Halls owing to illness, he is herein given ten days' leave of absence from Court duties, and Hsü Chêng-yao is now appointed in his stead.

19th, October.

COURT CIRCULAR.

The Grand Secretariat presented this morning to his Majesty, on behalf of the Board of Punishments, the list of criminals now lying in the prisons of the said Board who should suffer the last penalty at the annual executions next week.

Note:—The Emperor's Prerogative may delay, by a stroke of the Imperial "Vermilion Pencil," the execution of any one he may wish in the above noted "condemned" list, until the next annual executions, which is usually on the 25th day of the 9th

month of each year. In this way the worthies who fled from the Japanese in the late war, viz: Yeh Chih-chao, ex-Provincial Commander-in-chief of Chihli Kung Chao-yü, ex-Superintendent and Civil Commandant of the naval stronghold of Port Arthur, and several other military officers of the rank of general, have succeeded ever since the winter of 1894 in eluding the executioner's knife, by getting the Imperial pencil to mark the words "Reserve until next time" against their names in the above list. Naturally every time the "Command" list is being prepared by the Board of Punishments these men have to "make it all right" not only with the high officials of the said Board but also with some of the members of the Grand Secretariat which presents the list to the Emperor, and members of the Grand Council in whose Chamber the examination of the list takes place. Doubtless, when China finds herself compelled to fight for her rights some time in the near future, these men will manage to leave their prisons by volunteering to lead forlorn hopes against the enemy; but this, again, will mean a heavy disbursement to the men who shall manage to present the offers of the condemned to the Emperor when the—to them—opportune moment arrives.—*Translator.*

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the memorial of Li Hung-k'uei, Civil Vice-Governor-designate of Moukden and Literary Chancellor of Fengtien province, declaring that although his leave of absence is about to expire his maladies still continue unhealed and asking that some one may be allowed to act *pro tem.* as Vice-Governor of Shuntienfu (Peking), the memorialist's present post, etc. We hereby give the said Li Hung-k'uei an extended leave of twenty days, after which he is commanded to make no further delay but start at once for his new post at Moukden. As for the acting Vice-Governorship of Peking we hereby command Kuei Hsien (Manchu) to take over the post, *pro tem.*

(2) Huang Huai-sen, Governor of Yunnan, sends a memorial denouncing certain of his subordinate officials in the said province. We hereby command that Liu Ku-pang, department magistrate of Nanwei, be cashiered for avarice and other conduct incompatible with his rank, and that Li Hsing-jui, district magistrate of Lichiang, be ordered to resign his post and await further appointment, owing to incapability and inexperience in his present post—as recommended in the said Governor's memorial.

(3) Têh Yün is hereby appointed Lieutenant-General of the Right Division of the Peking Gendarmerie.

20th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Grand Secretaries Lin Shu and K'un Kang (Manchus), and Assistant Grand Secretary Wêng Tung-ho, and the Board President and Vice-Presidents, Ch'î Hsiu (Manchu), Hsü Hui-feng, Liao Shou-heng, Yang Yi, and Tang Ching-ch'ung, are hereby appointed Examiners of the Essays of the Competitors for the Master of Arts degree now taking place.

(2) Appointing the monthly Committee to examine provincial officials, commencing from Taotai downwards, who come to Peking for audience.

No. 3: This Committee is composed of a certain number of Presidents and Vice-Presidents of Boards and Censors.—*Translator.*

(3) We have received the memorial of E Ling-ngeh, Manchu Brigade-General of Liangchou, Kansu province, reporting the escape from confinement of one Têh Teng (Manchu) an ex-Colonel of the Left Battalion of the Manchu garrison of Liangchou who was cashiered, dismissed for ever, and banished to work on the post roads in

Kashgaria for alleged guilt in pocketing the pay of his troops and secretly selling government grain, etc. In addition to the said ex-Colonel, a cashiered Manchu *ch'üen*, named En Kuang, and a cashiered Lieutenant of the Imperial Guards, named Shêng Pai, have also escaped from confinement, presumably in company with the first named Têh Teng. We hereby command that search be made over the whole empire for the runaways and that T'ao Mu, Viceroy of Shen-Kan, and the high officials in Chinese Turkestan be especially commanded to search for the said three refugees and send them back to Liangchou for summary punishment.

21st October.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

(1) Wu Ch'ang-sui, head of the 1st class of new Masters of Arts at the recent *ch'üen* examinations at the capital, and his thirty-one co-M.A.'s; Chang Yün, head of the 2nd class, and his thirty-nine co-M.A.'s, and Chang Hsün, head of the 3rd class and his nineteen co-M.A.'s are hereby granted the privilege of competing at the Doctor's (*ch'inskik*) examinations in Peking next year.

IMPERIAL AUDIENCE.

Chang Yin-huan, Special Ambassador to the Diamond Jubilee festivities at London, returned yesterday, and had audience of the Emperor this morning in the Grand Council Chamber.

22nd October.

COURT CIRCULAR.

His Majesty returned to Peking this morning from Eho Park, and the Court will be held in the capital until further notice.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

(1) Chên Pang-jui is appointed Director of the Court of Sacrificial Worship.

(2) Princes P'u Ch'uan and P'u Tung are commanded to conduct the sacrifices at the Imperial shrines on the 26th instant.

(3) The Board Presidents Sung Kuei and Kang Yi are commanded to examine the Manchu essays at the examination of Manchu Translators for the M.A. degree.

(4) With reference to the charges made against Shih Nien-tsu, Governor of Kuangsi, by a certain Censor and investigated by Ch'ên Pao-chên, Governor of Hunan, we gave the other day a *résumé* of the latter Governor's report and commanded the Board of Civil Appointments to deliberate as to the penalty to be awarded the accused Governor in proportion to his culpability. We are now in receipt of the said Board's report which recommends that the accused be cashiered and dismissed from his post. We, therefore, command that his sentence be carried out and Shih Nien-tsu is hereby cashiered and dismissed from his post of Governor of Kuangsi. As for the expectant prefect Chao Hai-yen, who has been implicated in the said charges, he is hereby degraded three steps in rank, which is not allowed to be commuted by the usual setting-off of good marks against the sentence.

23rd October.

COURT CIRCULAR.

His Majesty will proceed to-morrow morning to the Chungto Throne-hall to inspect the new M.A.'s of the recent examinations in the Capital.

No papers of interest.

24th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) We have received the memorial of Yü K'un, and others, reporting that the Yungchi granary at T'ungchou is so dilapidated that, unless repairs are instantly made, the buildings will soon be reduced to general ruin, etc. We hereby command Wang Wên-shao, Viceroy of Chihli, to instruct the Provincial Treasurer at Paotingfu to grant the funds necessary to repair the said granary at an early date.

(2) The same memorialists send us a list of the various department and district magistracies in Chihli province which have not sent to the said Yungchi granary their annual quota of grain, and complain of the large arrears in this respect. We hereby command the Viceroy of the said province of Chihli to use the list herein sent us and issue special orders to the lagging magistrates to send their several quotas in all haste in order that the officers of the said granary may not be handicapped in their distribution of relief to refugees during the coming winter. Further delay in this matter will be visited with punishment upon the delinquent magistrates.

25th October.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Yang Yi-chih is hereby appointed acting Director of the Court of Sacrificial Worship.

Note:—This is the post to which H.E. Sheng Hsün-huai, Director-General of the Lu-Han Railway, was appointed last year. (*Translator.*)

(2) We have received the memorial of Shu T'ai, Police Censor of the Eastern city, and his colleagues, reporting the capture of three notorious desperadoes, by the local militia under the command of the gentry of the said Eastern city. The said desperadoes were captured, after a fierce fight, in an attempt by their band to break into a pawnshop in the Eastern city. The prisoners are hereby commanded to be handed to the Board of Punishments to be treated according to law, and the said memorialists are also commanded to send us a list of the names of the deserving officers and men after the result of the trial of the prisoners at the Board of Punishments is known.

(3) A similar memorial by the same Censor reports the capture of one Wang Chan-k'uei by the local militia of the said Eastern city, whose arrest had been ordered by a previous edict for the crime of forcibly abducting a woman, at the head of a gang of bandits of which the said prisoner was a leader. The man is to be handed to the Board of Punishments and strict search should be made for the rest of his gang.

Meetings.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Council held in the Board Room, No. 23, Kiangse Road, Shanghai, on Wednesday, the 8th December, 1897, at 4 p.m.

Present:—Messrs. A. R. Burkill (Chairman), F. Anderson, J. S. Fearon, E. A. Hewett, Rev. J. R. Hykes, J. Prentice, M. Rohde, J. Welch, H. P. Wilkinson, and the Secretary.

The *Summons* calling the meeting is taken as read.

The *Minutes* of last meeting are read, confirmed, signed by the Chairman, and passed for publication.

Cash Statement for the past week is submitted, and cheques for sundry accounts are signed.

Return of Prisoners apprehended and police daily reports for the past week are submitted.

Sanitary Department.—Report by the Health Officer and Municipal Surgeon for November is submitted.

Native Livery Stables.—Report for November by the Inspector is submitted, stating that the different stables have been regularly visited during the month, and the ponies were found in fairly good condition and free from disease. 576 carriages and 744 ponies were licensed for December, as against 563 carriages, and 722 ponies for November. 4,848 jinrichas, and 4,733 wheelbarrows have been licensed for the current month.

Markets.—Report by the Inspector for November is submitted, stating that the markets and butcher shops have been visited daily, and the meats carefully inspected. Beef has been of fairly good quality, and the supply of live stock adequate to the demand. Mutton continues to improve in quality, but the supply is still scant. Fish has been in fair supply. Vegetables, fruit, game, and wild fowl have been fairly plentiful; the prices of the latter, however, still rule high. The number of animals slaughtered at the abattoir consisted of 1,175 oxen, 1,744 sheep, 160 calves, and 88 pigs, and the fees collected from various sources amounted to \$328.53. The cattle shed fees amounted to \$1,006. 33 butcher licenses were issued for December.

Secretariat.—Mr. W. E. Leveson is appointed Assistant Secretary from this date.

Works Matters.—The following abstract of the Report by the Engineer, giving particulars of the works completed during November, and of those still in progress is submitted, and ordered to be published:—

Abstract of Municipal Engineer's Report for November, 1897.

PUBLIC WORKS.—The following works have been completed:—

Bridges.—Overhauling, repairing and painting Honan Road Bridge across the Sochow Creek.

Buildings.—Additional Quarters for Sikh Constables at the Yangtzeppoo Police Station.

Boundings.—Erection of iron railing to the bunding on the North Sochow Road, between North Honan and North Fuhkien Road Bridges.

Cemeteries.—Raising the ground at the Bubbling Well Cemetery (First Section).

New Rifle Range.—Turning the stop-butt and firing mounds and the erection of houses for markers.

Old Rifle Range.—Removing markers' houses, targets, etc.

Road Extensions.—Raising and bricking the Woosung Road Extension.

Electric Lighting.—Laying foundations for cast iron arc lamp posts down the centre of the Yangtzeppoo Road.

Stock and Stores.—Making 11,145 pieces concrete ware.

The following are the principal works in hand:—

Buildings.—Public Markets and Drill Hall. District Police Station, West Hongkew.

Additions to Carter Road Police Station.

Cemeteries.—Bricking and metalling paths, marking out grave spaces and laying turf, Bubbling Well Cemetery.

Drainage.—Rifle Range Road between Fearon and Woosung Roads. Laying 2' 3" x 1' 6" concrete sewer.

Laying 12" pipe drain, Thorburn Road.

Laying 9" pipe drain, Dong Ka Loong.

New Rifle Range.—Erecting wooden pavilion for the use of competitors.

Kerb and Channel.—Laying kerb and channel on the Boone and Yangtzeppoo Roads and on the Woosung Road Extension.

Roads.—Raising the Thorburn Road.

Road Extensions.—Making up, metalling, kerbing, and channelling the Seward, Hanbury, Yueufong and Sing Kei Pang Road Extensions.

Bricking the North Honan and Chaofoong Road Extensions.

Ping Chiao Quarry.—2,652 tons of Ping Chiao stone have been brought down from the Council's quarry during the month.

Permits.—Permits have been issued during the month for the erection of 438 houses.

Road Extension and Road Widening.—Negotiations have taken place in connection with the following road extensions and road widening:—

Fuhkien Road widening.

Yuhang Road extension.

Bubbling Well Road widening.

Dixwell Road extension.

CHARLES MAYNE,

Municipal Engineer.

The Meeting then adjourns.

Police.—Return of apprehensions, etc., made by the Municipal Police during the week ending the 11th day of December, 1897:

Offences.	No. of apprehensions.
Breach of Municipal Regulations	6
Burglary	1
Cruelty to Animals	3
Cutting and Wounding	3
Furious riding or driving	9
Gambling	2
Larceny from dwellings, etc.	60
Miscellaneous cases	541
'Ricsha Licenses suspended	499
'Ricsha Licenses confiscated	66
Wheelbarrow Licenses suspended	77
Handcart	9
Beggars, Hawkers and Ragpickers ..	341

Total number of persons coming under the notice of Police 1,617 || Chinese dead bodies found in streets .. | 3 |
| Stray dogs captured | 53 |

DONALD MACKENZIE,
Captain Superintendent.

Native Dairies.—Weekly Report.

SIR,—All the native dairies have been inspected during the past week.

They contain 578 head of cattle, all in good health and condition.

JOHN CHRISTIE,
Inspector.

DR. HENDERSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY BOARD.

The following minutes of meeting of the Sanitary Board held on the 13th of December, are ordered to be published:—

Race Course Ditch.—The Board is informed that the Council has communicated with the Race Club on the subject of closing and properly draining the ditch between the Race Course and the Bubbling Well Road and that the matter is to come before the members of the Race Club at their annual meeting in January next.

Water Gas.—The Municipal Engineer states that a clause referring to water gas has been embodied in the new contract to be made with the Gas Company, thus safeguarding public health interests, as recommended by the Board.

Clothes Washing Establishments.—The condition of these establishments is discussed and the Chairman, the Municipal Engineer and the Captain-Superintendent of Police arrange to visit the various washing places and to report on their state, their report to be circulated among the other members of the Board before the next meeting.

**THE SOCIETY FOR THE
DIFFUSION OF CHRISTIAN AND
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE
AMONG THE CHINESE.**

The annual meeting of this Society was held on Thursday evening (9th) in the hall of the China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Museum Road. Mr. C. Thorne presided, and there was a numerous attendance. The Rev. Dr. Muirhead having opened the meeting with prayer,

The Chairman said the Committee of the Society had much pleasure in laying before friends and subscribers the tenth annual report, which had been in their hands for a few days. Anyone who took the trouble to analyse it would come to the conclusion that it was an exceedingly satisfactory one. (Hear, hear.) It showed that an immense amount of trouble had been taken by some of the members, and by the results it was certain progress had been made. The speaker then went through the report, drawing attention to its salient features, and concluded by moving—

That the Report and Accounts, as presented, be accepted and passed.

Mr. E. F. Alford, in seconding the resolution said—In seconding Mr. Thorne's proposal I feel it is not necessary for me to say very much, but, perhaps as more or

less of a novice to this Society I may be allowed to express my opinion upon the report, and the way in which the efforts of this Society work. In reading the report of any Society the principal object to which one's attention turns is what is its work, and the leading question that occurs to one's mind is what are the results? Are they satisfactory and do they justify the outlay of time and money that has been expended? Now the report of the Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge among the Chinese which has been laid before you this afternoon, is one which justifies in every way its existence, for to my mind it is one of the most satisfactory on record. The object of the Society, as you know, is to print and distribute books of a secular as well as a religious nature in the Chinese language and so to scatter seeds of Western knowledge. That China is in need of Western civilisation and of Christianity, no one can deny who reflects on its administration, on the cruelties and extortions to which those of the lower orders are too often subjected, and the degraded position of the women, who are not even considered worthy of learning the bare rudiments of reading and writing, to say nothing of the physical tortures to which the girls are subjected by footbinding (hear, hear). At the same time we are dealing with a nation of great individuality and of immense mental capacity, and so this Society endeavours to enlighten its darkness by introducing to it all the modern scientific improvements, discoveries, and inventions through the medium of literature—for as yet the number of Chinese who have come into personal contact with Western life, is but as a dot on the ocean of its vast whole. This dot of Chinese who have hitherto come into personal contact with foreigners is, however, daily increasing. We have evidence before us in the influx of natives for the requirements of the cotton mills and silk filatures—industries yet in their infancy. If 1897 shows 20,000 to 25,000 natives so employed what may 1907 show? It is possibly difficult to reach these operatives but this Society's efforts may not be fruitless even in that direction. As the report aptly puts it: "True religion and true science are not opposed to one another, they are like twins—two angels sent from heaven, full of light and life and joy to bless our human race." I think one of the most encouraging features of the work is the appreciation of its literature by those in high positions, for in no part of the world are people more influenced by "fashion" than in the Far East. The sale of books and magazines has been doubled each successive year, with the exception of 1895 (when the China-Japan war would account for the falling off in numbers) and for 1897 the number of books sold has been more than double that of 1896. We of the laity do not pretend to live here for purely philanthropic purposes. We live here for our own advantage—to make a living and we hope more than a living—but the fact that by residence here we are freed from heavy poor rates, school board rates, and the almost invariable daily service collection in churches and chapels in our homeland, does not free us from the moral duty of assisting others. It is regrettable that any good work should be condemned, and it is insufficient to say we do not hinder good work, it is our duty to assist good work, and believing this Society to effect good work I commend it to public attention and feel honoured in being asked to second Mr. Thorne's resolution. (Applause.)

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Rev. Dr. Stevens proposed—

That the office bearers of the Society be re-elected for the ensuing year, only instead of Mr. C. S. Addis, who has left China, and whom we are sorry to lose as a Director, Mr. W. H. Poate should be appointed.

In so doing the speaker said he was sure all present would agree that the Society was exceedingly fortunate in having such excellent leaders. The question of leadership was always an important one, and they had been reminded again and again, and he believed quite correctly, that the regiments of the Imperial Army who fled panic-stricken before the Japanese in the recent war would have proved themselves valiant and intrepid soldiers if they had been properly officered. When he recalled what the directors of that Society had already achieved in connection with its work and recognised the spirit which animated them, it was quite easy to cherish the hope and expectation of a still more prosperous year. (Applause.)

Mr. A. J. Little said he seconded the resolution with pleasure, for he regarded the Society as being the most useful in China, and certainly one which did more work than the diplomats in Peking towards reconciling the East to the West. He presumed one reason why he had been asked to second the resolution was that latterly he had been residing in a distant part of China and had had some little experience of the work the Society was doing. It was a remarkable thing that he had scarcely ever conversed with intelligent Chinese without being asked for books on foreign affairs, science, and mathematics. They all appeared to know the *Wan-Kwuh-Kung-Pao*, so that when he saw the comparatively small number issued, he could not help thinking that it must have many more readers than would appear from the figures. The *History of the War* also seemed to have been largely read, and remembering the thrift of the people he believed that the copies must be passed on from hand to hand. The people were evidently in a receptive state, and it was the time for the Society to go ahead and increase its work. He felt quite sure that if he had had a depot of the Society's books at Chungking he could have sold a very large number. Foreigners ought to feel they had a standard to uphold, and the Chinese should see that we were not here simply to make money, and that our Christianity and civilisation led us to act in a way which should induce them to copy the source from which we imagined our better actions came. Considering the hard struggle for existence the majority had, he thought it was wonderful the Chinese took so keen an interest in ethics. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was carried unanimously. The Chairman then called upon the Rev. Timothy Richard to address the meeting.

The Rev. T. Richard said—As Dr. Allen and myself have been mentioned in the report I must refer to two of my colleagues. I am very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Williams for taking charge of the *Missionary Review*, a very difficult work which they have carried on with much self-denial, and to Mr. Kranz for doing my work so thoroughly. By this arrangement I was able to go home and raise more funds. In India on my way home I learnt many valuable lessons from the venerable Dr. Murdoch, who has done more work of this kind than any man living. This is not the place to state what these are but it is important to note that the Bible, the Tract, and the Christian Literature Societies in India have joint depôts for the sale of their publications in the chief cities. Dr. Murdoch shows his sympathy with our work by giving us £20 per annum for the annual distribution of our literature at one of the examination centres. In Scotland the ladies' and gentlemen's Branches interested themselves more than ever in our work. Edinburgh through the enthusiastic and untiring exertions of the family of Col. Denholm Young and their friends arranged a series of 59 meetings which Mrs. Richard and myself addressed in 20 days. At these meetings we met ladies and gentlemen of all classes and professions. In Glasgow two ladies have taken two fresh centres, which is £20

each per annum, while our old friends, the Misses Harvie, have taken up additional work. With funds raised by the ladies here we bought a large supply of these beautiful coloured illustrations which you see before you. Some of these are already gone to Corea and the rest will find a ready field of usefulness among those progressive Chinese ladies who astonished Shanghai this week by giving a banquet to about 200 ladies in connection with the inauguration of their girls' school, where Western knowledge is to be given and where the girls' feet are to be unbound. The result of our visit to Scotland has been a promise of an income of over £600. In England and Wales several Baptist friends gave £100 each while some churches are taking up a centre each. But our best hope of funds at home seems to be from the societies making a grant of £100 each per annum besides setting apart one of their men exclusively for literary work. The Baptist Missionary Society granted £100. The London Missionary Society granted £100. The Wesleyan Missionary Society granted the help of one of their men. The Religious Tract Society granted us books to the value of £100.

Altogether Great Britain has promised an income of £1,300 and other Societies are considering the desirability of co-operating. (Applause.) Besides the publication and circulation of books we have for years felt the need of having central institutions in Peking and in each of the provincial capitals where lectures on all questions vital to the progress of the nation should be given. For this end we appealed to our old friend Mr. Thomas Hanbury. Under certain conditions he has offered for this purpose the sum of Tls. 30,000. (Applause.) In America I visited the Secretaries of most of the Missionary Societies in Canada and in the States, though they were widely scattered, pleading for co-operation. They were all sympathetic even when their treasuries were empty. The Baptist Missionary Union at Boston at once granted £100. The Methodist Episcopal Mission, South, which has given us Dr. Allen for so many years, will consider the question of a grant of money also at their annual meeting next May. The Methodist Episcopal Mission, North, in the person of Bishop Nindé promised to plead our cause at their annual meeting in November. Such is the sum I have raised at home—scarcely half what I think is necessary. If Dr. Allen goes home I hope he will raise the other half. (Hear, hear.) If all the Societies in Europe and America could co-operate to systematically enlighten the 200 examination centres where a million students meet annually, in a few years all the educated men of China would then understand our object in coming to China and the way would be cleared of the chief obstacles to international good will—viz., ignorance of foreign countries, hatred of foreigners, and disregard of the purposes of God's Providence. In conclusion I must point out that international peace is impossible if both parties do not try to understand each other. The Missionary body of the British, American, and German Societies has rendered immense service in this direction. They have made Chinese and English Dictionaries, translated Chinese Sacred books and their histories into European languages, and have written many books on Western countries in Chinese; while the Chinese, on the contrary, proceeded on the principle of refusing to introduce the study of foreign subjects into their colleges and refusing to hold free intercourse with the foreigners. They have tried repeatedly to expel foreigners by brute force. Failing in that they have tried to vilify us on a gigantic scale with the filthiest literature. Failing to do that with impunity their latest method is to start educational reforms excluding all study of the Christian religion. Ignorance is the chief cause of this attitude which has brought China to the brink of ruin.

They do not know that religious intolerance in Europe cost 100 years' war and they do not reflect that it cost centuries of war in China. The greatest force among all nations—the religious—will not be ignored or set aside. Men have discovered that the only solution to difference of religions is to insist on tolerance and mutual respect. Whatever may happen to China, she can never attain to the highest prosperity till it allows liberty to study and practise religion just as it does any other subject, nor will the neglect of religion do, for the weapons of war are turned against their masters by the anarchists. Therefore in the highest interests of political, educational, and commercial prosperity, it is important that the enlightened religion be thoroughly understood and appreciated. It is with very great pleasure that I learn that notwithstanding this great mass of ignorance and hatred of foreigners among many, there is now a new class rapidly growing in all the provinces, whose object is to give true light on all subjects and to promote a better understanding with foreigners. On the increase of such a class depends the future prosperity of China and the permanent peace of the world. To them we wish a hearty good speed. (Applause.)

The Rev. Dr. Y. J. Allen then proposed—

That we the members of the Society, assembled at this tenth annual meeting, express our sincerest gratitude to all those generous friends in the homelands, who by their hearty support have greatly encouraged and helped us in our work, and to the missionaries on the field, who have so faithfully co-operated with us in the distribution of our books.

He said that the expression of thanks which he voiced was not a formal one, and in it he wished to include the *North-China Daily News* and the *Shanghai Mercury*. It was certainly gratifying to those who had had to do more immediately with the work of the Society to see how it had prospered and to know the wide influence the books of the Society had. He might give many instances of high officials passing through Shanghai calling and expressing their appreciation of the Society's labours, whilst the prestige attaching to the publications of the Society was so high that the books were being pirated and copied by unscrupulous publishers. The speaker warmly acknowledged the services of their writer, Mr. Ts'ai, and spoke of the efforts which had been made, without success, to induce him (Mr. Ts'ai) to undertake the work of instruction independently.

The Rev. E. Box, in seconding the resolution, bore testimony to the valuable aid the society's publications had been in overcoming prejudice and preparing the way for evangelical and pastoral work.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Upon the proposal of Mr. A. H. Harris, seconded by the Rev. E. T. Williams, votes of thanks were passed to the Chairman, and the Rev. Paul Kranz (one of the Hon. Secretaries). The proceedings concluded with the Benediction, pronounced by the Rev. Dr. Edkins.

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Diseases of the skin.—No case of disease of the skin, be its nature what it may, has failed to be benefited when these potent remedies have been properly applied. In scrofulous and scorbutic affections they are especially serviceable. Scurvy and eruptions, which had resisted all other modes of treatment and gradually become worse from year to year, have been completely cured by Holloway's cooling Ointment and purifying Pills, which root out the disease from the blood itself and leave the constitution free from every morbid taint. In the nursery Holloway's Ointment should be ever at hand; it will give ease in sprains, contusions, burns, scalds, and infantile eruptions, and may always safely be applied by any ordinary attendant.

THE TIEN TSU HUI.

On Wednesday night, in the Municipal Hall, the annual meeting of the *Tien Tsu Hui* (Natural Feet Society) took place, under the presidency of Mr. Cecil Holliday, who was supported on the platform by most of the ladies forming the Committee, the Rev. Dr. Edkins, the Rev. Y. K. Yen, and Dr. Suvoong. There was a large attendance, including a number of Chinese.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said—Ladies and gentlemen, it was my privilege to preside at the first meeting of this Society, and therefore I hold it a peculiar honour and pleasure to have the opportunity of presiding again to-night. There has been a considerable interval between the two meetings, but during that interval the campaign has been carried on against one of the most barbarous and what is probably worse than barbarous—because barbarous customs are sometimes founded on common sense—one of the most foolish institutions, the world has ever seen, has been carried on with considerable amount of success. Of course in attacking a custom which has obtained for generation upon generation amongst our fellow-beings, those fellow-beings, being orientals, and those orientals being probably the most conservative of all orientals, immediate success can hardly be hoped for, in fact if our children see the fruits of our labours we can hardly be disappointed. At the same time I confess myself to cherishing the hope that the end of this foot-binding is not quite so far off as that. I hope that it is within measurable distance; that possibly we ourselves may see this antiquated structure of a time honoured—time dishonoured, I should say—custom collapse like the proverbial house of cards. At the same time I can hardly call myself an expert on the subject, and as it will obviously be more interesting to hear these who are, I think we had better proceed to business, and as a commencement I would ask Mrs. Little to read such correspondence as it is considered desirable to place before the meeting. (Applause.)

Mrs. A. J. Little said the Taotai had sent a letter expressing regret that owing to a long-standing dinner engagement he could not be present. Père Le Gall, S.J., on behalf of Père Rouxel, the Director of the Jesuits here, wrote as follows:—

The Rev. Father Rouxel, to whom I communicated the object of your visit, begs me to thank you for the kind courtesy which has led you to wish for the presence of one of our Fathers at your meeting to-morrow evening. The hour unfortunately does not accord with our rules. But pray, Madame, count upon all the members of our Society being heart and soul with you in wishing to extirpate the barbarous custom that you combat with so much zeal. The benevolent work of the *Tien Tsu Hui* will always find in us not only sincere approvers, but active promoters, whose zeal will have no limits but those which prudence may sometimes impose upon us in view of the yet more important well-being of souls.

Mrs. Little then went on to read reports from various centres of the Society's operations, Mrs. Bondfield supplementing these with extracts from other reports and letters.

Mrs. W. V. Drummond proposed—

That the Report and Accounts, as presented to the meeting, be adopted and passed.

Dr. Reifsnnyder, in seconding the resolution, called attention to the fact that the work performed by the Society so far had been with the expenditure of about £50 in the course of two years. She could not help feeling that the title of the Society was a misnomer to a certain extent, notwithstanding that a good deal of time was spent on its selection. It had

seemed to her in the last two years—she might almost say in the last fourteen years, during which time she had come in contact with over a quarter of a million Chinese women and children—that a better name would be the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, for that was what it amounted to. Pestilence, famine, and war had visited this land, but for 1,200 years innocent children, girls, had been subjected to the most barbarous practice, unable to defend themselves from the cruel force applied by their parents to whom they should have looked for protection. Since the sixth century the evil practice had gone on, but could anyone with any common sense say that "small feet" were not miserably deformed feet? How or why the practice began seemed to be a question, and it had gone on in spite of edicts practically all over the country except in the Manchu and Hakka districts. Famine, war, and pestilence had not brought such untold misery and sorrow upon the people as the practice of binding the feet of the girls. But now public opinion was aroused and people were refusing to bind their daughters' feet. It was for the closing years of this century to abolish the custom. Victor Hugo had said that the nineteenth was woman's century, and she hoped it would be recognised as woman's century not only for Europe and America but for the East. She was glad to see so many Chinese gentlemen present, and hoped that they would do everything in their power to abolish the evil custom. (Applause.)

The resolution was put to the meeting and carried.

Proposed by Senora de Uriarte and seconded by Mrs. Edkins, it was resolved:—

That the rules of the *Tien Tsu Hui* as presented to the meeting, be adopted.

Lady Hannen proposed, and Mrs. Bock seconded—

That Mrs. Drummond and Mrs. Little be re-elected as President and Organising Secretary, and that Mrs. Edkins be elected Treasurer, and Mrs. Bondfield Secretary, and that the ladies whose names are in your hands form the committee for the ensuing year, those with asterisks before their names to be on the executive.

Mr. Liang Ki-in, representing the Chinese Anti-Footbinding Society (*Pu Chan Tsu Hui*) said he was glad to be able to report that the membership of the society with which he was connected was steadily increasing. His countrymen know the evils of footbinding, but the habit was so deeply rooted that it was difficult to overcome. However, the members of his Society had agreed that their daughters' feet should not be bound, and that in the event of there being any difficulty in getting husbands for them that they should be married to the sons of members of the Society. With the increase in the means of communication and the extension of Chinese newspapers, he sincerely hoped the cruel practice would be almost, if not entirely, done away with in the course of ten years. It was the intention of his Society to ask the Superintendents of Northern and Southern Trade to petition the Emperor that children born after the twenty-third year of Kuang Hsu should not be recognised as of high standing unless they had natural feet. (Applause.)

The Rev. Dr. Edkins in mentioning a few facts to show that the Chinese Government had always been opposed to the practice of foot-binding, said that in the beautiful book on Peking by Père Fabregues, of the Lazarists' Mission, there was a picture of the Empress who acted as Regent during the years 1248-50, in which her feet were shown so that it was impossible that they could ever have been bound. That was about thirty years before Marco Polo reached Peking. Regarding the present century, in 1804

the Emperor was reported in the history of the dynasty to have noticed that many of the young girls from the banners had broad sleeves, and bound feet, and he issued a decree threatening their fathers and brothers with punishment if such should occur again. In the year 1838 there was a reference of a similar nature, and again severe punishment was threatened for binding feet, so that it was evident the Manchu dynasty had never varied in its opposition to the practice of foot-binding. The resolution was then put and carried.

The Rev. Y. K. Yen moved—

That the thanks of this meeting be presented to the Committee and Officers for their conduct of the work of the Society.

He said that he proposed the resolution with great pleasure as the work of that Society dealt with a question which came very near his heart. When in America he heard of the foundation of the *Tien Tsu Hui*, through the efforts of Mrs. Little, and he at once felt that China was going to have a Moses to deliver her girls from bondage. He hoped that Mrs. Little would not leave the country until she saw her work accomplished. (Applause.) All his life he had had an aversion to bound feet, and simply on that account, when returning from America after his student days, he did not marry the young lady who had apparently been intended for him. He had now one daughter, and she had feet as large as any one. (Laughter.) He would rather see her remain unmarried than that she should be crying and weeping from the pain of bound feet. He appealed to his countrymen to do all they could to support Mrs. Little and the Society she represented.

Mr. E. F. Alford, in seconding the resolution, said—Such a resolution is often regarded as a mere matter of form, but on this occasion I think that from what you have heard you will agree with me it is not empty compliment or mere form, but a resolution to be adopted unanimously, animated by admiration of work done, and intended as an incentive of work yet incomplete. No one can have read the report and heard what has been said of the work of this Society without experiencing both pain and gladness—pain at the sad tale of millions of infant sufferers yet unrelieved of pain; gladness that at least a strong effort is now being made towards the voluntary abandonment of a cruel practice. Of the callous who criticise this good work, who say it is not our business to interfere with or even suggest a reformation of what they call a national custom, I would ask—Have you ever seen a foot unbound after it has been bound for years? I have seen this sight, and shall not soon forget it. I do not need to be reminded of what was once a foot and become an indescribable mass of unrecognisable flesh. It is the fact that few actually see these deformities that causes many to hesitate from joining this Society. Suppose for a moment that instead of laming girls for life by practically killing eight out of ten toes the custom had been to amputate one foot, can it be supposed that with such ocular demonstration of pain anyone, whether foreigner or Chinese, animated by the commonest feeling of humanity would stand aloof and say this is not my affair? We are all apt to pass by on the other side, to shut our eye to painful sights we do not see an easy way to prevent, but let not those who have undertaken the good work be deterred—it is the necessity for their work which causes pain; it is the good work which they are doing which brings gladness, and as a simple but heartfelt acknowledgment of that good work, we who can only share in the shadow of its reality can, at least record our opinion and tender the thanks conveyed by the resolution I have the honour to second. (Applause.)

Dr. Suvoong, in supporting the resolution, recognised the foundation of that Society

as one more service done to China by foreigners, and he suggested that perhaps some day China would be able to repay the debt by endeavouring to bring home to foreign ladies the evils of the corset. (Laughter.) He strongly denounced the custom of footbinding, believing that it had inflicted physical injuries upon the women of China which had had an adverse influence upon the whole population.

The Chairman said he was asked to state that in aid of the Society's work the following had promised donations of \$25 each, and the Hon. Treasurer would be glad to receive others:—Mr. Alford, Mr. Drummond, Mr. C. Holliday, Mr. A. J. Little, Mr. J. T. Hamilton, Mr. J. C. Bois, Mr. Hardoon, and Messrs. David Sassoon & Sons.

The resolution having been carried, Mrs. Little briefly acknowledged the vote, pointing out that the Society offered a splendid opportunity for genuinely benevolent work to ladies in China, who not infrequently must have felt the need of something to usefully occupy them beyond domestic cares.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mme. Rocher, and seconded by Mrs. Sonne, closed the proceedings.

REPORT.

The keynote of this report must be thankfulness. We have not done so much but what we have done has been greatly prospered and we have so far succeeded beyond our most ardent hopes, when with some fear and trembling we formed ourselves into a Society on the 2nd of April, 1895. People doubted then whether it were worth while to form a Society to attempt such a Herculean task—whether it were not a case of the egg beating against the rock. And many were the attempts made to turn us into ridicule. Now not only Englishmen, like the gentleman who at both of our public meetings has so kindly taken the chair for us, applaud, but Chinese *litterati* are writing anti-footbinding tracts, a Chinese Viceroy is circulating one with a preface of his own; a descendant of Confucius is collating and distributing our publications, the leading Chinese periodical is advocating our cause, an influential Chinese Anti-footbinding Society is established in Shanghai, Pu Cha Tsu Hui, Bubbling Well Road, 不纏足會中坵城橋西首, and best of all, Chinese ladies of distinction are coming forward to found a school for girls of the upper classes, the first rule of which is that all girls who enter it must be unbound. We must not flatter ourselves that all of this has been brought about by our exertions, yet again and again we find Chinese men coming forward, because they have read our publications. Mr. Chao, the Suifu *Hsioyuan*, whose appeal has been the most largely circulated of all our tracts, only wrote it when, just after reading some of our literature, his heart was wrung by the wailings of his little daughter whose feet were then beginning to be bound. (They are long ago unbound.) Again K'ung Hui-chung, a descendant of Confucius, wrote last July: "I have always had my unquiet thoughts about foot-binding, and felt pity for the many sufferers. Yet I could not venture to say it publicly. Now there are happily certain benevolent gentlemen and virtuous daughters of ability, wise daughters from foreign lands, who have initiated a truly noble enterprise. They have addressed our women in animated exhortations and founded a Society for the prohibition of foot-binding. They aim at extinguishing a pernicious custom." He was compiling a book from the best of our statements in order to circulate it, and adds: "All who are interested in social questions, important in our time, will, I am sure, be glad to see this enterprise advancing." In

the West of China Mr. Chao has started an Anti-Foot-binding Society at Suifu, Mr. Mei another in Chungking, and his brother again another at Changchow, all led in part at least by our efforts. There may be many others in this vast empire of which we have not yet heard.

At Kiukiang the American Methodists can show about fifty Chinese girls stepping firmly on their pretty feet, not to speak of women whom they have induced to unbind, whilst from Chinkiang our enthusiastic local Secretary writes: "The growth of the anti-foot-binding sentiment within the last six years has been marvellous, and I have never felt more convinced about anything than that the hand of the Lord was in this movement. It is but a short time since it was a tabooed subject even amongst Christians and efforts to create a sentiment against the custom in the native Church were regarded with indifference, while as for taking any action on the subject that was out of all reason! Unbinding the feet of elderly women was considered worse then preposterous—an absolute cruelty.

"All this is changed. Action has been taken and a rule enacted that no preacher shall marry a bound-footed woman nor shall he bind his daughters' feet nor betroth his sons to bound-footed women. A sentiment sufficient to bring forth the aforesaid rule has not only been created but provision has been made to keep it alive and increasingly faithful by an annual mass meeting held in connection with the yearly conferences. The initiative in all this was largely due to the natives themselves."

ORGANISATION.

Our first duty was to organise ourselves, a somewhat complex task owing to the size of China, and the difficulties of communication which are also the reason of our not till now calling this meeting, the precursor, as we hope, of regular annual meetings. In 1895 English-speaking meetings were convened in Shanghai, the first for ladies only at Mrs. Seaman's, the second a public meeting at the Asiatic Society's room, when Dr. Macgowan related the experiences of the original Tien Tsu Hui Society founded some twenty years or more ago in Amoy. A ladies' meeting was held in the Court-room of the British Consulate at Hankow. A public meeting was held at the Rev. Dr. Kearney's at Ichang, very well attended as the subscription list shows, but though a local Committee was formed in consequence, most if not all of the members fell away during the Japanese war, and the riot alarms at Ichang. At Chungking the inauguration meeting was held at the American Deaconesses'; about a year afterwards a consultative meeting at Dr. Wigham's, of the Friends' Mission; an energetic Committee was very soon formed there, which has led to fresh ramifications of the work throughout the West of China as will be seen by the list of local correspondents. The wish of the Society from the first has been to leave workers as free as possible with only two restrictions—that the Society's funds must not be spent without official sanction, and that as far as possible our literature should not be issued without first securing the approval of the Society's Chinese advisers. We have to regret the loss of our treasurer Mrs. Marshall, who has left China. Her place has been filled by Mrs. Edkins. We regret also the temporary loss of one of our secretaries, Mrs. Seaman, who has left China also, but only for a time. Our other secretary, Mrs. Buchanan, who has so bravely borne the burden and heat of the day incidental to starting a new enterprise, was obliged to give up her post by illness and is still unable to resume work on our executive, although with undiminished interest in our objects. Under these circumstances we have again great cause for thankfulness that we have secured the able and energetic services of Mrs. Bondfield.

ESSAYS.

In Shanghai prizes were twice offered for the best essays. A good deal of interest was probably aroused by the competitions, but whether because the money prizes were small—\$50 on each occasion divided into three prizes—nothing very brilliant was adjudged to have been produced, although a special prize having been offered for the best essay by a woman, the essay that gained the prize was thought worthy of a place in translation in the morning paper, and several rather ingenious methods for getting rid of foot-binding were also proposed.

MEMORIAL.

A memorial to the Emperor of China was drawn up by Dr. Fryer, and signed by a thousand foreign ladies residing in the East and on behalf of 15,000 women of the International Union of Europe and America. Dr. Fryer wrote: "It is copied out on gold paper, and mounted in the most tasteful and becoming way that money and native talent could command. It is plain but good work, and is in itself a masterpiece of Chinese composition, calligraphy, and mounting. The writing is on eight pages, and it folds up in a space of $5\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ in. The memorial was forwarded by the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, Colonel Denby, to the Tsungli Yamén, who replied that it was a very difficult matter to present to the Emperor, and that they would therefore prefer to keep it on their shelves. On Colonel Denby bringing further pressure to bear he seems to have been successful in getting the memorial duly presented, for although no official notice of this has yet reached our Society a Chinese gentleman says he himself has seen the foreign ladies' memorial in the Imperial Palace, which shows that the Emperor has seen it. He also adds that he knows that the Emperor disapproves of foot-binding.

LITERATURE.

In 1896 we circulated from Shanghai—10,000 copies of illustrated poem sent by Bishop Moule from Hangchow, written by a Chinese lady.

1,500 copies of a poem not illustrated.
5,000 copies of tract originally written by Pastor Kranz: Ch'an Chio Yen i.
1,000 copies of the same rendered into colloquial and illustrated.
100 copies of another Hangchow poem, Chuen Mien Yuen Ki.
100 copies of Memorial sent to Emperor.
200 copies of Mr. Chow's Suifu appeal, Chan Chio Lan.
200 copies of pledge cards.

This literature was sent to the river ports, Chefoo, Ningpo, Foochow, Wenchow, Amoy, Macao, and Hongkong, also to several mission stations in the interior. But it was during this year we learned that freight in China so far exceeds the cost of production of tracts, that it would be often more economical to print on the spot, and unfortunately the list of tracts printed in the West of China is not to hand. A lady at Chungking anxious to have some pamphlet suitable for women both gave the money towards printing and herself got rendered into easy colloquial Pastor Kranz' Wenli tract. This was printed in Chungking, and very widely circulated all through the West of China. Then came the first great impetus given to our movement. Mr. Chao, one of the *litterati* returning to the neighbourhood of Suifu from Peking where he had been holding office found his little girl crying over her binding and having already come across some of our tracts felt himself moved to write a better one. After much thought he did, signed it with his name and seal, and got five of his friends, *ch'ien*, to add a preface and their signatures. They posted this appeal on the walls of Suifu against the examinations there. Mr. Upcraft, of the American Baptist Mission, carried off one and brought

it to Chungking. The Committee there at once saw its value, and from that date spent pretty well all the money they could collect in reprinting it. By their exertions and a grant from the parent Society about 10,000 copies were handed to students up for examination there, and thousands have been sent to Yachow, Talifu, Yunnan, Kueichow, and nearly all the principal cities throughout the West of China, as also large packets down river, for printing is cheap in the West, and so many people are alas! invalidated that packets can often be brought down gratis. Missionaries distributed about 10,000 copies at Kiukiang, Chinkiang, and Wuhu, and by the request of friends at Nanking this appeal was then printed on red paper after the Chinese fashion in convenient form for placarding. Mr. Chun Fai-ting, head of the China Merchants' Company, wrote for a copy, had it reprinted and widely circulated in his own native province of Canton, and without doubt this appeal gives more satisfaction to Chinese, than anything we have yet issued. We have now, however, obtained copies of a poem, translated in the *N.-C. Daily News* of 7th Dec., 1897, which with the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung's preface may possibly be yet more influential. The Suifu appeal was printed at the rate of three cash a copy. Thus 333 copies can be circulated for a dollar. But we ought to raise at once about 500 dollars to at all meet the demands for literature that are coming in to us. It will be observed we are trying to rouse Chinese from Kalgan in the North, where, in the clay fields women toil kneeling on their knees, because they cannot stand on their deformed feet, to Formosa, that fair apple of discord among the nations. In Canton, in the South right on along the coast, and up the great Yangtze River, on through opium-sodden Kueichow and Yunnan, even in Kansuh, we have sent literature and have probably by this time secured correspondents.

The list of local correspondents as we believe it now stands, is appended, but naturally among so many there must be constant changes, and this renders it so much to be desired that each correspondent should gather round little committees if only for the purpose of appointing successors in case of need without the work suffering any break in its entirety.

Besides money, what is yet more wanted is zealous workers. The mind of China at this moment may be compared to a tinder box, that will burn up at once with a bright flame if but a light be applied, but a light must be applied first.

WORK DONE.

Are any Chinese women's feet unbound in consequence of the exertions of foreigners? Yes! Yes! and again, Yes. But no more than European ladies are they going to walk barefoot through the streets to convince doubters. And what is far more important, numbers upon numbers of little girls are remaining unbound in missionary schools at Amoy, Hangchow, and all up and down the river. And at parties ladies, who as far as we know are untouched by Christian influences, yet show with pride their soft-footed little girls, saying, "My old people bound my feet, but I will never bind hers." It is the upper circles of China who are giving up binding; the man on the streets yet binds, and loves bound feet, just as in Singapore all the Straits-born Chinese have cast off binding, if it be not the very poorest of the poor. Whilst although Hongkong has never punished footbinding under the Act for the prevention of cruelty to children the practice is already greatly diminishing there. There are, however, doubters, if you wish to know whether it is worth while, quite worth while to give a small contribution, yet millions of little girls suffering such torture as we hope you never felt from this hideous, cruel custom, for the Chinese proverb still holds true: "For each pair

of small feet there has been shed a whole kong full of tears."

There is much yet to do, millions of suffering little ones yet to relieve, but we are thankful for the feeling already aroused. It is feeling that makes or mars a nation.

ALICIA LITTLE,
Organising Secretary.

CHUNGKING BRANCH REPORT.

The T'ien Tsu Hui Chungking Branch has had two seasons of good aggressive work.

LITERATURE.

Besides supplying Yunnan and Kueichow provinces with pamphlets and tracts, a large number have been circulated in this province and encouraging letters received, manifesting good results in increasing interest in the subject. Thinking it important that Pastor Kranz's tract should be more widely read and not limited to the highly educated Chinese, we had it paraphrased and in its present form of colloquial Mandarin it is very popular, especially among the women. About 9,000 have been printed. Another popular tract is one written by a Chinese literary gentleman at Suifu who had been constrained by the perusal of the Society's publications to take a decided stand against foot-binding.

We printed 6,000 of these and at one of the important civil examinations Mrs. Little undertook to have every student on leaving the examination hall presented with a copy.

MEETINGS.

Five very successful meetings for Chinese have been held and well attended.

Of these two were held in Mrs. Little's house, the first, a drawing-room meeting for ladies addressed by Mrs. Little (through an interpreter), two lady missionaries of the Friends' Mission, and a native Biblewoman of the M. E. M.

The other was exclusively for gentlemen, Dr. McCartney giving them a physiological lecture on the subject. At the close a number gave in their names signifying their willingness to oppose the custom and through their efforts a number of other names have since been added to the list.

In October, 1896, a meeting composed chiefly of Chinese ladies and gentlemen unconnected with the missions was held in the Friends' meeting house and addressed by the Rev. F. Myers of the M. E. M. and a native preacher of the C. I. M. In the following month Mr. Williams called a meeting of people mostly connected with the four missions at work in the city. It was held in the C. I. M. chapel and addressed by the Rev. J. Wilson of the L. M. S., Mr. Mason of the Friends' Mission, and a native medical student of the M. E. M. The last meeting of the season was arranged by Mrs. Claxton and held in the L. M. S. Chapel in January, when addresses were given by the Rev. J. Wilson of the L. M. S. and Mr. Willett of the C. I. M. The chief feature of this meeting was a shoemaking competition to which about 30 pairs of shoes for unbound feet were sent in.

Judgment was passed by those present, the pair of shoes receiving the greatest number of votes being awarded 2,000 cash, the next 1,000 and the third 500.

By these varied means a large degree of interest has been aroused and sustained on the subject of anti-foot-binding, and we hopefully look forward as time goes on to a great change in public opinion.

MIRA L. CUMBER.

Local Secretary.

16th April.

THE T'EN TSU HUI IN ACCOUNT WITH THE
HONORARY TREASURER (Period from April
19th, 1895, to December 10th, 1897).

1895.	Dr.	\$	3
April 23,	To Payments for Advertising in Chinese and Foreign Newspapers	18.18	
May 24,	Cost of Printing 10,000 Copies Hangchow lady's Poem	25.00	
April 29,	Cost of Block	6.00	
" "	Cost of Printing Circular	7.00	

Sept. 24,	Chinese Scientific Book Depot for Hangchow poem without picture..	18.10	
May 15,	Cost of 100 Reprints from China Gazette	3.00	
1896.			
Jan. 20,	Prizes for Essays..	50.00	
April 30,	Chinese Scientific Book Depot for additional Poems	13.29	
May 13,	N.-C. Daily News for advertising (Tls. 1.95)	2.67	
" 14,	Am. Presbyterian Mission Press for Ch'an Chio Yen i	30.90	
Aug. 1,	Amounts disbursed by Mrs. Little (Chungking) Payment to Block Engraver	4.16	
	Printing 5,000 copies Ch'an Chio Yen i	58.67	
	Native Postage on 100 books and 100 pamphlets to Yunnan	1.60=64.43	
Aug. 21,	Chinese Scientific Book Store for prizes, etc.	55.55	
" "	Cost of Box with silver cover and embroidered silk lining for Memorial to Emperor..	22.70	
1897.			
Feb. 6,	Cash to Mrs. Little, Chungking for printing Suifu Appeal	22.53	
Mar. 9,	Cash to Mrs. Seaman, part cost of printing Tracts...	20.00	
Aug. 31,	Cash to Rev. F. H. James for 2,000 Tracts	21.00	
" "	Cost of box for Secretary to contain printed matter...	2.50	
Oct. 14,	Sin Wen Pao for 2,000 posters on Red Paper (Suifu Appeal)	21.00	
" "	Am. Presbyterian Mission Press for pledge cards.....	1.80	
Dec. 10,	Amounts disbursed by Mrs. Claxton (Chungking) Payments for Tracts and Blocks	\$50.12	
	Prizes at Shoe Competition	3.50=53.62	
" "	Cash in H. & S. Bank, Savings Bank	72.53	
" "	in hands of Hon. Treasurer	\$19.27	
" "	in hands of Branch Treasurer (Chungking)	1.19	
		20.46	
	Less Due to Mrs. Little for Chungking printing ...	7.59	12.87
	Carried forward.....	\$544.67	

Cr. \$ \$

April 19, to Dec., 31, 1895.

By Receipts as follows:—

Mrs. Seaman	25.00
" Little	25.00
" Geo. Jamieson	10.00
" W. V. Drummond.....	10.00
" Alford	10.00
Dr. Reifanyder	10.00
Mrs. Thorne	10.00
" Ballock	10.00
Miss F. J. Gaskin	8.80
Mme. de Uriarte.....	5.00
Mrs. F. J. Marshall	6.00
" Carl Bock	5.00
" Jernigan	5.00
" Oxley (Hankow).....	5.00
" M. F. Sonne	5.00
" S. F. Edward (Taiyuenfu) ..	5.00
" R. W. Shaw	3.00
" W. H. Anderson	2.00
" C. Holliday	1.00

Collected by Mrs. Edkins—	
Mrs. Haskell	3.00
" G. Clarke	3.00
" Mackenzie	2.00
A Friend	1.00
E. G.	1.00
Collected by Mrs. F. J. Marshall—	
Mrs. Twigg	1.00
Mr. J. W. H. Burgoyne	1.00
" R. H. Beauchamp	1.00
" H. Clapp	1.00
" F. H. FitzGibbon	1.00
" R. W. Mansfield	0.30
A Friend	0.25
Mr. H. J. Hunt per Mrs. Seaman Tls. 71.50 @ 75.70	94.45
Collected by Mrs. W. M. Dowdall	32.00
" Oxley (Hankow)	16.00
Collected by Mrs. Lovatt (Ichang)	
Mr. W. Holland	5.00
" F. R. Schjölth	5.00
Mr. W. R. McD. Parr	5.00
Rev. H. Collins, M.D.	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. Lovatt	2.00
Mr. M. Hellstrand	2.00
" H. A. Farrell	2.00
Rev. K. W. Engdahl	2.00
" and Mrs. C. A. Fernstrom ..	2.00
Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Erskine ..	1.00
Mr. and Mrs. J. Ferguson	1.00
Dr. F. Hirth	1.00
	350.80
Jan. 1, to Dec. 31, 1896.	
By Receipts as follows:—	
A Friend for special Prize for Lady Essayist	5.00
Collected by Mrs. Little (Chungking).—	
Mr. Woodruff	1.00
" Tratman	1.00
" Tatlock	1.00
" Byron Brennan, Tls. 20 ..	26.67
La Mission Lyonnaise, Tls. 10.	13.33
Lady Missionary, for Romanisation	9.36
Sales of Books	43
Sales of Mrs. Little's Photographs of Chungking ..	4.05
	61.84
Jan. 1, to Dec. 10, 1897.	
By Receipts as follows:—	
Collected by Mrs. Little—	
Miss K. Schaeffer	1.00
Captain Lowe £1	9.63
O. M. 10s.	4.82
Mr. E. S. Kelly 10s.	4.82
Collected by Mrs. Seaman	56.00
Collected by Mrs. Claxton, Chungking—	
Mr. A. J. Little	10.00
" Tratman	6.00
" Bourne	5.85
" Cecil Hanbury	5.75
" H. Gribble	5.75
" E. B. Vardon	5.00
" F. Schjölth	5.00
" Y. Kato	4.30
" H. Bell	4.30
" H. Neville	86
" A. Carruthers	2.00
" L. Wigham	2.00
	131.08
June, 30.	
By Interest on H. and S. Bank Savings Bank account	0.95
	\$544.67
E. & O. E.	
Shanghai, 10th December, 1897.	

JOHANNA LUDOVICA EDKINS,
Honorary Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,
ALFRED B. REY.

"The Health and Vigour of an individual depend upon the quantity and quality of the blood. When the tissues have been at work, there are thrown into the blood waste products, and if these be not eliminated but (through any cause) detained in the blood they influence nutrition and function and finally produce organic disease."—*The Humanitarian*. In cases of Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, the effects of Clarke's Blood Mixture are marvellous. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Clarke's Blood Mixture is sold everywhere, at 2s. 9d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

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Amusements.

MISS ELSIE ADAIR AT THE LYCEUM.

The Lyceum was fairly well filled on Saturday evening, when Miss Elsie Adair assisted by some of our local amateurs, presented a well arranged programme. The performance opened with a one-act comedy, entitled *The Decision of the Court*, in which a young American wife sues for and obtains a divorce from her aristocratic English husband, but the pair meeting, the effects of old ties and associations are too strong and a happy reconciliation is effected. Miss Adair, as Kitty Stanyhurst, the young and capricious wife, was as charming as ever, and acted the part to the life. Mr. Reginald Bevant, as Algernon Stanyhurst, was excellent, and his rendering of the part, which could easily have descended to the ridiculous, showed the effect of careful study. The part of James, a man-servant, was well sustained by Mr. Vestibule. The next item was a very well rendered solo, "Star of my soul," by Mr. J. Mann, which was followed by a banjo solo by Mr. de Basagoiti, who received an enthusiastic encore. Miss Adair was rapturously encored for her songs, and after the interval a comedy-sketch, entitled *A Pair of Lunatics*, was presented, the characters being well represented by Miss Adair and Mr. J. Mann. Another banjo solo by Mr. de Basagoiti followed, the next item being a comic song by Mr. Vestibule, who was excruciatingly funny, his local hits being greatly appreciated by the audience. The performance ended with the serpentine dance by Miss Adair, which was enthusiastically applauded. We have on several previous occasions called attention to the defective arrangements for warming the theatre, but on Saturday night they seemed worse than ever. The building was more like a refrigerator than anything else, and it speaks well for the entertainers that they were able to keep the audience in a good humour, in spite of the discomfort, throughout the evening.

THE SHANGHAI PAPER HUNT CLUB.

The Second Hunt of the season was laid on Saturday last by the winners of the previous Hunt, Messrs. Renny and Coutts, the route selected being from Clatter Bridge over the Big Grave country to Sicawei; down the line of jumps beyond the village to the Plum Tree, thence to Handicap Bridge, Unkaza, and home down the Jassfield line, the finish being the small jump on the high ground known as Galle's Grave. There were some very good jumps given, but owing to the high tide there was a considerable amount of wading. The winner passed through the flags some time before the rest of the field arrived and Mr. Sinclair won the heavy-weight prize. The following is the official result:—

- 1.—Mr. Perrott on *Tristan*.
- 2.—" How " *Pasadena*.
- 3.—" Benecke " *Friedel*.
- 4.—" A. W. Burkill " *Auctioneer*.
- 5.—" Sinclair " *Burky*.
- 6.—" Lemon " *a Griffin*.
- 7.—" Crosthwaite " *Sloper*.
- 8.—" Farbridge " *Stepaside*.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."—Clarke's World-famed Blood Mixture is warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities from whatever cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Sold everywhere at 2s. 9d. Beware of worthless imitations.

SHANGHAI FOOTBALL CLUB.

S.F.C. v. SHANGHAI RANGERS.

An Association match between teams representing the above clubs was played on Saturday afternoon, and resulted in a very one-sided game, the Club winning by nine goals to nil. The Rangers exhibited a great want of combination and training and the pace of the Club men seemed much too great for them. For the Club, Goodall at back played a well-judged game and Lanning, Pearce, and Veitch at forward also rendered sterling assistance to their side. The only men who showed anything approaching good form for the Rangers were Mackenzie at back and Basagoiti at half-back. Both played a good game, but their exertions met with very little support from the forwards. In the first half the Club scored six goals, which were kicked by the following:—H. Veitch 2, W. H. Moule 2, H. C. Pearce 1, A. E. Lanning 1. Second half:—H. Veitch 1, A. E. Lanning 1, W. H. Moule 1.

SHANGHAI GOLF CLUB.

Although the Shanghai Golf Club were again fortunate in having fine weather overhead the strong wind prevailing on Saturday was decidedly against the players who elected to play off for the Monthly Cup on that day. The Cup was won by Mr. B. A. Clarke with the net score of 89, which was closely followed by the veteran Mr. J. Ferrier, from scratch, with 90. Appended are the scores:—

	Gross Score.	Allowance.	Net Score.
B. A. Clarke.....	94	5	89
J. Ferrier.....	90	—	90
H. T. Butterworth....	104	13	91
E. Molloy.....	97	5	92
J. P. Wade Gardner ..	96	3	93
E. W. Maitland.....	108	15	93
J. L. Scott.....	112	18	94
E. O. Cumming.....	106	12	94
J. C. Johnston.....	95	1	94
J. Findlay.....	96	1	95
D. McNeill.....	113	18	95
W. Hardie.....	100	4	96
F. Larkins.....	108	12	96
E. O. Arbuthnot.....	99	1	98
E. Gumpert.....	108	8	100
C. D. Kerr.....	115	14	101
J. Mann.....	109	8	101
E. Sharples.....	110	8	102
R. R. Hynd.....	112	10	102
H. E. Shadgett.....	111	8	103
I. Turner.....	112	9	103
A. J. McClure.....	119	14	105
J. Cooper.....	124	16	108
W. Cowan.....	126	18	108

Four scores not returned.

SHOOTING.

"B" AND "C" CO.'S MONTHLY CUP COMPETITIONS.

The above competitions were fired at 700 and 800 yards on Saturday afternoon. The weather was fine and the light excellent, but a strong left wind, almost a gale, combined with the sharp cold prevailing, proved disastrous to good shooting, and the scoring was by no means good. The only exception to this was the score made by Lieut. Whittall in the "C" Co. competition, viz. 58 at the two ranges,—26 at 700, and 32 at 800 yards.

The "A" class cup in "B" Co. was won by Col.-Sergt. Peace for the third time, the cup thus becoming his absolute property. Private Gram made the best score in the "B" class competition, but there not being a sufficient number of competitors, according to the rules, it was declared to be no competition, the present holder of the Cup retaining it for another month. The "C" Company competition was won by Lieut. Whittall with a score of 53 points; Private Samson being second with 45 points.

Miscellaneous.

THE SHAM FIGHT.

It may be interesting to supplement our report with some additional details which present a very good idea of the manoeuvres:

A report having been received that a force had been raiding in the vicinity of the Settlement and had been seen retiring in the direction of the Woosung Road, the home force, of all arms, was called out with a view of dispersing them or driving them farther off. The time that could be utilized for this exercise was limited and resulted in what may be considered somewhat as follows.

The raiding party reached the Woosung Railway road and retired along it, seeking some good position for the night's bivouac, and having selected a place just beyond the second bridge to the eastward of the road, placed their pickets at the bridges and had not settled in by the time the Light Horse issued from the Settlement. The knowledge that the foreign force had a gun with them rendered it probable that they would use the roadway and take up a position not far from it.

The first information that the home force received as to the whereabouts of the raiders was by some of the vedettes of the Light Horse being fired on by the pickets as they approached the creek, for owing to the reeds and the grave mounds the raiders were very difficult to be seen till close on them.

The whereabouts of the opposing force having been generally determined, the Artillery and Infantry of the home force, which had been advancing along the Woosung Railway road, formed for attack. The Artillery on the road was soon in action with the gun of the invaders. The Infantry extended and advanced, drawing the fire of the opposing force, which they returned. The ground afforded good cover for skirmishers, the home force being at a disadvantage by having to show themselves as they advanced. The invaders, however, were not long in coming to a halt, and a time went to this advantage increased. The home force advanced till stopped by a formidable creek, which they could not cross till the support had been called up to reinforce them and their artillery was free to assist to dislodge the invaders and to cover the crossing, which was eventually affected by means of some punks and sampans that were in the creek. As the infantry obtained a footing on the invaders' side of the creek, they extended and lay down.

The reserves which had been called up lined the bank and the invaders under fire of the whole of the force were supposed to have been dislodged and retired from their position, their left, covered by a another creek, with flanking parties out to their left and right front so as to check the home force's too rapid advance and allow time for the main body to retire by the road, the bridges across the creek being destroyed. They were pursued by as many of the home force as had been able to cross. The manoeuvres ceased at 4 p.m. to allow a return before next set in.

A time sufficiently long to allow for the difficulties attending the attack could not be allowed, and hence a portion of the home force ran into their opponents before the whole exercise was completed. After cease firing had been sounded the combined forces marched to the New Rifle range, for refreshments, which were very gratefully received, and arrived in time to dismiss at about 6 p.m. after a very useful day's work. The ground covered in marching alone could not have been under fourteen miles.

THE LAUNCH OF THE VICTORIA.

On Saturday afternoon, the very interesting ceremony of launching a new twin-screw mail and passenger tender was performed at the Pootung yard of the builders, Messrs. Boyd and Co., Ltd., by Miss Hannen. The vessel has been built to the order of the Shanghai Tug Boat Co., Ltd. and has been completed in six months. She is built of steel throughout and was designed by Mr. Gow, of Boyd and Co. Her principal dimensions are length:—over all, 135ft.; between perpendiculars, 130ft.; beam, 21ft.; moulded depth, 8ft.; draught, 5ft. 6 in. Her two pairs of engines built by Boyd and Co. are of the vertical direct-acting, compound, surface-condensing type, the diameter of the cylinders being, high pressure 9½ in. low pressure 22 in., with a 12 in. stroke. The boilers also were built by the same firm. They are of the cylindrical return tubular pattern with a working pressure of 160 lbs. to the square inch, and forced draught is provided for. The deck fittings consist of hand steering gear on the upper bridge, and on deck a steam windlass, by Chapman, of Gateshead. The saloon is 34ft. long, by 14ft. broad, and 6ft. 7 in high. It is well-lighted from the sides by slip-panel windows. The wainscoting is in teak, with malaya pilasters, fluted, and with decorated capitals. The panelling is in Japanese elm, exquisitely figured. Crimson Utrecht velvet has been used for the cushions, and linoleum, of a pretty pattern, is laid down on the deck. The locks, door plates, and fittings generally are of brass, and the whole harmonises very happily. The accommodation for the master and officers is very good, well-lighted and ventilated, with plenty of room to move about and fitted with bunks, drawers, tables, etc. The smoking saloon is smaller, but upholstered in exactly the same style as the saloon. This apartment will be available as a saloon for the officers, when not otherwise in use.

A large number of guests were present, and the launch was christened by Miss Hannen, who presented a bottle of champagne against the stem of the vessel, naming it the *Victoria*, whilst at the same time it slid easily into the water amidst general applause. The main function having been completed, Mr. John Prentice, Chairman of Messrs. Boyd & Co., Ltd., proposed success to the Shanghai Tug Boat Co., which was acknowledged by Mr. Colin Buchanan, who, in return proposed "Prosperity to Messrs. Boyd & Co., Ltd." Then Mr. Prentice proposed the health of Miss Hannen, at the same time presenting her with a handsome gold bracelet as a souvenir of the occasion. Sir Nicholas Hannen gracefully responded on his daughter's behalf, and wished prosperity to the two companies most interested in the day's proceedings.

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Reliable Remedies.—In wounds, bruises, sprains, glandular swellings, enlarged veins, neuralgic pains and rheumatism, the application of this soothing Ointment to the affected parts not only gives the greatest ease, but likewise cures the complaint. The Pills much assist in banishing the tendency to rheumatism and similar painful disorders, whilst the Ointment cures the local ailment. The Pills remove the constitutional disturbance and regulate every impaired function of every organ throughout the human body. The cure is neither temporary nor superficial, but permanent and complete, and the disease rarely recurs, so perfect has been the purification performed by these searching yet harmless preparations.

WHY GREAT BRITAIN AND JAPAN SHOULD AID CHINA.

(Translated from the "Hupao" for the N. O. Daily News).

Alas! Whenever I think of the late war between China and Japan it has always seemed to me that both Japan and Great Britain have spoilt their chances through it. Japan and China both belong to Asia, our literature is the same, and we should lean upon each other as closely as the lips are dependent upon the teeth for support.

Japan though a small country possesses a warlike and brave people, and since the Restoration of Min Chih (Meiji) to power both Sovereign and Ministers have bent their energies to the attainment of Western sciences, even to the extent of imitating their dresses and household furniture. When, at last, they began to feel conscious that they were possessed of a powerful fleet of modern ships of war, and that their army was well-trained and based upon a sufficiently stable foundation they felt that although they might not be able to oppose Great Britain successfully in an aggressive war, still they were conscious that for defence their naval and military forces were more than enough for the country. Such being their view of things Ives the Japanese began to be vainglorious, and proud and anxious to test their own efficiency. In this spirit therefore they picked out China and the result enabled them to satisfy their desires and avarice. But alas for China! she became, through this, even weaker than before! Yet has it ever occurred to the Japanese that with a weakened China, Japan cannot stand out alone, independent and strong enough to dictate the destinies of Asia? Herein I say Japan has lost her chance.

As for Great Britain, her commerce in the Far East is acknowledged, to be the greatest of all countries. If, during the late war with Japan, she failed to mediate successfully between the belligerents, how was it that when the armies of China were defeated, she failed to come forward to help them, and rescue the beaten country from the effects of the war? Instead of this England merely stood with folded arms calmly looking on and permitting Japan to do whatever she wanted, thereby leaving it to Russia, France, and Germany to force Japan to retreat from Liaotung and in this way to "sell" kindness to China, using it to make all sorts of demands as a return for what had been done in Manchuria, and thus getting whatever they individually desired from China. Here then I say again has Great Britain also lost her chance.

Now our country, although intrinsically weak for many years prior to the war with Japan, still possessed in the Peiyang sea a fine fleet of several tens of war-vessels. Then again in the Franco-Annamese war our troops were victorious at Huwei (Tamsu) over the French and we gained a big victory also at Liangshan (Langson). Foreign Powers found it most exhausting and difficult to transport a few thousand troops into the Far East nor could they easily maintain a powerful fleet in hostile waters. China on the other hand could fight on the defensive for ever. Hence France was compelled to come to terms with us after a war of short duration, having been unable to satisfy herself in the way she would have no doubt liked. And so with other foreign Powers—none dared be the first to browbeat China. But with the end of the last war when China became prostrated and with the splendid Peiyang fleet destroyed, the Western Powers began to look down upon China more than ever, resulting in a desire, repeatedly advanced, to divide China amongst themselves. Although they have not actually done so, yet the signs

appear not to be wanting. If, unfortunately for us, the various foreign Powers indeed rise and attack us, it does not require a very wise man to see that weak as China is she could never hope to successfully resist so many powerful enemies. With China unable to withstand her foreign enemies, our empire will be filled with a great mixture of nations, and Asia will soon be turned into a grand battlefield for all the Great Powers of Europe.

And Japan, what then of her? What will she be able to do with her insignificant half-a-dozen islands? Will she be able to stand alone and independent in the midst of all this turmoil? Can she stand alone with China prostrate? I fear that the moment she may attempt to run counter to the wishes of any country it will be the signal for the division of her country also. Hence, I say, the troubles of to-day are not China's alone, but in truth also a great future danger to Japan.

Of the Western nations who came to our China the English were the first to cause trouble with us. From the fifty odd years of commerce which sprang from the first war with Great Britain she has reaped the greatest advantages above all others. Of the Imperial Maritime Customs at the several Treaty ports Englishmen have always held the chief control, while the relations between China and Great Britain are such that for intimacy and closeness no other nation can compare with the latter. If the English are willing to let their commerce and prestige go and allow the integrity of the Far East to be hurled into destruction, well and good; there is no need to say more. But if Great Britain be unwilling to lose all this and her prestige and superiority of over half-a-century in the Far East, how can she sit calmly down and allow China to become a prey of others without holding out so much as a hand to rescue our unfortunate country? If disaster overtake one's neighbour we are not afraid of the trouble we undergo to assist him, for by so doing we are also helping to preserve our own property adjoining from destruction. To preserve the peace of a continent the principle of several countries combining to browbeat an isolated one is especially to be deprecated. For what single country could stand successfully the attacks of many others combined against it? Chaos indeed will be the outcome if such be the case.

We now hear from Hongkong that Russia, France, and Germany have secretly decided to partition our country amongst themselves. Although this is a rumour which cannot be believed in entirely, yet with the example before us of what the Germans are doing in Kiaochow, their demands upon the Tsungli Yamen for an indemnity and the sole control of the railways and mines of Shantung province, we can well imagine the desires of such countries. It is not probable that our government will be willing to consent to all these demands; but if we should indeed go to war with Germany and then find Russia and France taking advantage of our preoccupation to initiate more troubles, what then, I ask, will become of the commerce of the Far East? Is Great Britain prepared to lose her superiority and prestige? Hence it is our candid opinion and hope that both Great Britain and Japan ought by all means to hasten to the rescue of China, and forming a triple alliance thereby secure the peace of Asia. Although naturally it would be a great good fortune to China if this could be secured it can hardly be denied that both Great Britain and Japan will also reap very substantial advantages therefrom.

THE MURDER OF THE TWO GERMAN MISSIONARIES.

(We condense the following from the *Ostasiatische Lloyd*.)

Our valued correspondent writes us from the capital of Shantung:—

The South Shantung mission is the only German Mission in China, a lost corner of the empire where the banner of Germany has been held aloft up to the time of this terrible disaster; an account of which must be of the greatest interest to our German readers.

It was on the first of November, at 11 o'clock at night, that a band of armed Chinese robbers attacked the mission at Kiachuang, a small village in the district of Chiueh, in the prefecture of Chaochou, and murdered the two missionaries Franz Nies and Richard Heule.

Franz Nies was born in Rehrlinghausen in Westphalia in the year 1859, and in 1879 entered the Theological College in the town of Steil. In the year 1885 he was sent out to the mission in South Shantung, where he has been at work ever since. The deceased was much beloved for his childlike, amiable manners and had gained the close friendship both of his colleagues and of the Chinese. He had already experienced troubles during the twelve years of his missionary activity, having already been once driven out of his mission in Taicheng, in the district of Ichou; only last summer he was attacked by robbers while on a journey, when he received a slight sword-cut and lost part of his baggage.

Richard Heule was born in 1865 in the principality of Hohenzollern, studied in the academy at Steil and came to Shantung in the autumn of 1889, since which time he has been busily employed in the robber region of Chaochoufu. The deceased was a highly gifted man and possessed an exceptional talent for languages and great tact in his intercourse with the Chinese, while his unfailing good humour made him equally beloved both by the Chinese Christians and by his own colleagues. He too had been attacked in the previous year by bandits who stole all his clothes; but all these troubles and misfortunes did but increase his zeal for the cause.

Mr. Heule with his colleague, Mr. Georg Stenz, had met together on the first day of November last in the parish of Changchichuang, where the mission possesses a dwelling house and a small church. In the course of the same day arrived Mr. Nies who was in charge of the mission at Wenshanghien. After concluding the business of the day, the missionaries retired to rest. Messrs. Nies and Heule occupied the dwelling-house proper, while Mr. Stenz slept in the gate-house. The missionaries were just asleep when suddenly at eleven o'clock a band of some thirty men, armed with guns, swords, and spears, rushed into the courtyard. The doors and windows of the dwelling house were broken open in a moment and the bandits fell upon the defenceless missionaries with murderous shouts. Mr. Nies received a severe sword cut on the head while still lying in bed, but the other wounds received by him and by Mr. Heule were received after they had jumped up. The whole was the work of a few moments. Thence the bandits proceeded to remove everything portable from the dwelling. The band then descended into the courtyard seeking Mr. Stenz, calling out—"Where is the Long-beard?" The murderers did not know he was in the gate-house and shortly after they decamped: within five minutes both of the wounded men were corpses. The room where the murder took place presented a horrible aspect: the walls, the beds, and the furniture were covered with blood; Mr. Nies had received no less than thirteen wounds and Mr. Heule six wounds, all mortal.

On the morning following the magistrate arrived to inspect the bodies, which were removed afterwards to "aichichuang (in the neighbourhood of Chining) for interment; this took place in the presence of all the surrounding missionaries and numerous Chinese Christians.

What is the explanation of this robbery under arms? Had it been a burglary pure and simple, the robbers would have contented themselves with the stolen goods; they would not commit murder, and especially so cruel a murder without cause; nor would they have gone out of their way to look for the third missionary. We must consequently regard it as an act of vengeance inspired by hatred. But how should a missionary create enemies? A missionary's enemies can hardly be personal, for his whole conduct consists in a loving treatment of his Chinese neighbours. If a missionary is hated, it is as a European and as a missionary. Hatred of the foreigner is a chronic disease in China, as we all know. Add to this that a missionary who does his duty cannot avoid reaping hate and dislike: thus for example, men of bad character offer themselves as converts for the sake of food and lodging; the missionary rejects him and forthwith gains another enemy.

The "Big Sword Society" has of late years disturbed the minds of the people and has rendered the bad characters hereabouts more inimical than ever. Shortly after the formation of this sect several of the leaders with their followers were caught and beheaded—of course, quite apart from any missionary influence; but the members of the Society held the Europeans responsible for these executions and had sworn vengeance accordingly.

The immediate cause of this outbreak is a mystery, but the remote cause is perfectly clear. This particular murder is simply the fruit of a condition of things which the officials of Chaochoufu have permitted to grow up until it ripened in this atrocious attack. It cannot be alleged of the South Shantung missionaries that they have filled the world with their cries after each petty trouble; they have suffered in silence; have kept silence for the love of peace and quietude, and in order not to create too great difficulties for the Government. But the mandarins, in lieu of appreciating this lenient conduct, have grown steadily more careless, not to say positively hostile. In Chaochoufu, a short time back, Bishop Anzer was almost beaten to death; Herr Freinademetz was dragged through the streets of Tsanhien; and no satisfaction was ever obtained. The mission station at Puoy was gutted and that at Langshan attacked no less than four times: missionaries have been attacked on the road, plundered of everything and beaten; catechists and Bible-women have been treated in the same way; this not once only, but over and over again. Absolutely nothing has been done on the part of the mandarins: seldom has any examination been held or the occurrence noticed; never has a criminal been arrested nor a word of compensation mooted. We missionaries have remained patient and silent.

Since Li Ping-heng took over the Viceroyship at Chinanfu, our position has only grown worse. Mandarins known to be friendly to Europeans have been put aside, apparently as a matter of principle, while those left at their posts were encouraged to ill-treat Europeans. Calumnies regarding the missionaries were listened to with open ears and their circulation encouraged: justified complaints obtained no hearing and the most ignorant official felt himself called upon to furnish the missionary with warnings and exhortations. Others believe, and announce their belief before numerous audiences, silly stories of missionaries plucking out eyes and hearts of their victims. There has been no talk of protecting missionaries; six

months ago, a plot was laid to murder Herr Steitz; a gang of ruffians broke into the preaching-hall at Lichia where a missionary had just passed the day: the bed, which was fortunately empty, was pierced through with spears, the missionary having quitted the place in the twilight. The mandarin of Kiueh (the same as he in whose district this last crime has been effected) was notified of the occurrence but never took the least notice and it would seem that he approved of the outrage. Equally peculiar has been his conduct in regard to the Society of the "Big Sword;" it was declared that the society had ceased to exist and this finished the matter. This Society is now quietly permitted to grow again, its adherents to hold armed assemblies and to go about as they choose without molestation. Some mandarins go so far as to afford the Society their protection. The result of this is to make this naturally rough people so much the bolder and to render Europeans more helpless and exposed to greater danger than ever.

Such is the actual state of affairs: if nothing is done to mend them, then these will not be the only victims. We trust, however, that the German Minister will succeed in bringing about a better state of things in future.

NEWS FROM KIAOCHOU BAY.

(Translated from *Der Ostasiatische Lloyd*.)

We left Shanghai on Monday, the 29th of November, steaming against a strong N.E. wind, and on Wednesday morning the rising sun showed us the jagged mountains which shut in the Bay of Kiaochou on the east. After passing several small islands, the low land which forms the entrance of the Bay came into sight, and shortly after we saw the German men-of-war anchored close under the coast, and just outside the Bay proper. We made for this mark and, after steering between the *Kaiser* and *Prinzess Wilhelm* on the left and the *Arcona* on the right—dropped anchor inside the men-of-war's berth.

A cold breeze was blowing from the north but the sun shone bright in a cloudless sky and on a sea of deep blue, presenting a strikingly beautiful view. Before us extended the amphitheatre of the Bay—a low shore-line with hills gently rising behind, some crowned with rocky summits, and in the far distance behind, a high serrated range. In the west a narrow strip of high land with the wide Bay of Kiaochou spread out behind. To the south a grand expanse of water bounded by picturesque mountains; to the east, the open sea. There is but one drawback to the beauty of the landscape, and that is the absolute want of trees and vegetation; no green is visible. Between the blue of heaven and the blue of the sea is the land in tones of grey and yellow. Scarcely is the large village of Tsingtao, with its straw-roofed houses of stone and plaster and the range of buildings forming the camp of the late military commander distinguishable from the surrounding country. But we must not forget that we are now in the midst of winter; it is no desert that we have before us for the land is carefully cultivated, in the spring this grey fallow-lying ground gives place to green crops.

This letter is dated from Tsingtao and our ships are lying at anchor off Tsingtao. The land affords perfect shelter against the north wind, which blows here the winter through. But where, we ask, is the harbour of Kiaochou? A glance at the map shows that Kiaochou Bay has an enormous area. The town of Kiaochou is situated sixteen sea-miles above the point at which the Bay is navigable by big junks. The day is long since past when junks from the south could sail up and anchor under the walls of Kiaochou. As

everywhere in China, man has here done nothing to restrain the elements, and a once flourishing traffic has here fallen into complete desuetude. But there would never have been flourishing trade here had not the required conditions already been in existence in the country itself, in the shape of trade routes, which converge at the place. Whoever lays out a new harbour here will resuscitate the trade and lead to its blossoming forth anew; experts declare that this is feasible without great difficulty.

We are now naturally anxious to get on shore. We had already observed from the deck of our steamer, with astonishment, a stately landing jetty extending far out into the Bay. Built of solid masonry on a rock foundation for the first two hundred yards, the jetty is carried out farther on iron piles screwed into the sandy sea bottom. These carry a light iron framework supporting the wooden plank, construction and material being alike European. The work is being done by Chinese exclusively. Although, in consequence of the occupation of the place by the German marine, the Chinese employers are no longer here, yet the work goes merrily forward. No one has left excepting the Director of the works; the wages of the workmen continue to be paid by the German administration. The project of building fortifications and converting the place into a marine fortress was conceived by the Chinese previous to the Japanese war. Possibly, the disastrous outcome of this war, as well as some understanding with Russia, may have led latterly to the hurrying on of the execution of the project. Three camps filled with troops have been recently erected and the building of fortifications commenced. This landing jetty is destined, in the first place, for the landing of the required material which is being brought to Kiaochou by sea.

Availing ourselves of the finished portion of the bridge, we land with ease, and in a few minutes reach the bridge-defence which is built close to the edge of the shore. This is the usual square Chinese encampment surrounded by a fifteen feet high mud wall, the interior being filled with divers one-storied buildings, which serve as barracks and depot for stores. At the present moment the supplies for our corps of occupation are being accumulated herein. Great activity rules; sailors are busy everywhere, coolies carrying provisions, wood, iron stoves, and countless other things just landed from a steamer. At another spot, two-wheeled carts drawn by oxen are being laden with stores; we shall see later whether these are being conveyed. Other coolies are busy sweeping and cleaning out the place, for the first immeasurable heaps of filth are being carried out—and even worse—before our crews will be able to move in.

Leaving the camp, we proceed by a wide road along the shore, evidently made by the Chinese Military Intendancy, and in about five minutes more, arrive at the village of Kiaotsingtao. A newly restored temple,—the T'ien Hou Kung—stands at the entrance to the place. A venerable priest carries on his sacred work. Himself sixty years of age, he speaks of the Abbot who is about ninety and almost blind, as his venerable father, and of himself as the younger servant of the former. We found a countryman installed in one of the dark guest-rooms of the temple, comfortably fitted out with everything needful, including a petroleum cooking stove. We also found that a Chinese trader from Shanghai had obtained possession of a piece of land attached to the temple, upon which he contemplated erecting warehouses and workshops for the supply of European wants: he hoped to compete successfully with the dealer Sieh-tai from Chefoo, whose sign-board, written in English, is displayed on the main street of the village, with the view of

attracting European buyers to his store. After this comes a well-paved village street, wide as Chinese streets go, and in which a busy market was being carried on. The fright which took possession of the population of this and the neighbouring villages immediately upon the occupation of the place, has now entirely vanished. All the people are back, including the women and, as commonly in China, enormous numbers of children. Everywhere we notice the common scenes, women at their household work and children playing! The men in their thickly wadded coats and blue and white trousers, which last cannot be washed and so quickly lose their first freshness. Here, as elsewhere in China, the little girls wear red trousers by preference. But it is not alone the regular inhabitants of the village who have returned; crowds of country people have come into the market from the surrounding region with dozens of asses laden with the proceeds of the land. We noticed pears and persimmons, sweet potatoes, cabbages, roots, and green vegetables, hens and eggs, as well as a sort of small hare, said to be by no means bad eating, besides fish and other sea products. A great pile of peanuts was being winnowed in the centre of the street. A cook, adorned with the usual queue, both hands full of struggling ducks, was vainly trying to arrest a winged deserter, which he only succeeded in doing with the friendly aid of an officer, whereupon ducks and hands fell to the trouser seam, and he said, in the good German learnt on board the man-of-war, "Ich danke schon."

The population itself gives a very friendly and peaceful impression. They have made a good exchange; money flows freely, and every deduction, every squeeze, such as are customary in China, has been abolished. They are innocent of all patriotic *religions*, are satisfied with the present and don't worry themselves about the future. The junks too are finding their way back to Kiaochou. When the German vessels first anchored in the roadstead, they were compelled to make these junks which got in their way shift their anchorage. Out of this simple regulation a rumour, which has been circulated by the English papers, has gone forth that junks were prohibited from entering Kiaochou. It is hardly necessary to say that this rumour is all nonsense.

The roomy *yamen* of the Chinese general, lately in command, adjoins the village. The extensive range of buildings which composes the official residence, goes to show the great scarcity of wood and the superabundance of stone in this region: everything that can be made out of stone is made of stone, and the walls are all built of solid stone. Lime too must be cheap, as this is in no way spared; the houses of the peasants form no exception. As a consequence of the occupation, the poor Chinese General in command found himself in an unfortunate position: when the landing took place and the heights dominating his camp had been occupied by our troops, and he was called upon to surrender the place, he could hardly believe that the matter was really serious. Up to the very last he imagined that the Germans were only practising war manoeuvres. In the end it was too late for him to attempt any resistance; sadly and patiently he had to accept the inevitable. The Chinese troops have now been all withdrawn. At first he was permitted to stop in his *yamen*, but later, as it appeared that he was carrying on a traitorous intercourse with his people, he was made to exchange his shore residence for one on board of the *Prinzess Wilhelm*. Now, apparently, the matter has been arranged at Peking and the general has betaken himself with his troops to beyond a line of demarcation fixed by the German Admiral.

In the outer court of the *yamen* may still be seen the insignia of vanished majesty in

the shape of tridents, pitchforks, and other weapons, and relics of antiquity still adorn the guardroom, and these terror-inspiring objects were left intact as the Chinese marched out and the German garrison took their place. Unfortunately our troops are not terror-stricken as they should be: indeed we hear that these arms are to be purchased and sent home as curiosities.

In a side building of the *yamen* is the telegraph station: the road to it leads through the pigsty and the muck-heaps adjoining: here sits an ancient Chinese telegraphist who is going on with his work. Four German non-commissioned officers, experts in telegraphy, having been detailed to superintend him. Berlin and Peking can thus talk direct with the Admiral now lodged on the wild coast of Shantung. How wonderfully has our century advanced and how curiously do things still go on in China! The *yamen* is being whitewashed, floored and provided with stoves, and in it the German military intendants are about to take up their abode; the gentlemen who are about to occupy the place will doubtless know how to make themselves comfortable in it.

Tsingtao lies close to the shore: behind is rising ground walled in on three sides by hills: the highest peak in the rear is some 350 feet in height. On the floor of this amphitheatre stand two camps about half-a-mile apart—roomy Chinese encampments with mud walls, handsome stone gateways, enclosing dwelling-houses, barracks and storehouses. They are known as the East camp and the artillery camp and here the chief part of our army of occupation is housed. As an indication that the German government is in full possession, the German War-flag flies over the stone-built entrance: military life goes on all round and one might fancy oneself at home in the Fatherland.

To the rear of the East camp rises the previously mentioned highest peak in the neighbourhood: we ascended it in an easy quarter of an hour and had no cause to regret the trouble. A truly magnificent panorama was here spread out before us:—the horizons north and south bounded by steep mountain chains of picturesque outline; to the east the sea; to the west the apparently boundless expanse of the waters of the bay; and, at our feet, like a map, the peninsular-shaped land which divides the Bay of Kiaochow from the open sea;—the land which we now hold in military occupation and where henceforth,—be it inside the bay or outside of it,—new harbour improvements will develop a new traffic and new trade-routes will be opened up. What shall we then look down upon from this spot in ten,—not to say a hundred,—years hence? How will events develop? If one did but know how to prophesy!

But to-day we look down on no desert, unknown land; let us look closer; all around the soil has, by work, been made subservient to man. Though in past times the downpours of the rainy seasons have dug out deep ravines, now dry, still the steep, rocky slopes of the mountains have been terraced wherever practicable and laid out in fields. The industrious peasants have planted the steepest slopes with trees which, it is true, will never be allowed to grow up as they are cut down for fuel. Will not German forestry be able to create here new and flourishing forests? If only as a precaution against the fast sanding-up of the harbour, the afforestation of the surrounding heights is a pressing necessity. A few oaks are scattered about, proving that the oak-silk worm is cultivated (*bombyx perni*) hereabouts.

The valleys appear particularly well-adapted for fruit gardens; juicy pears and fine walnuts abound and farther north fruitful valley bottoms extend for miles inland, all cultivated.

The question now is, where to build the new trading settlement? There, at the foot of the hill, lies an apparently per-

fect sea-beach. Shall we not see, one of these days, hotels and villas erected there? Here Shanghai will take refuge from its summer heat and we shall see the bathing machines being pushed into the cool waves. But so far little is to be seen on the blue element beyond the three German warships lying solitary at their anchors. In the far distance lies the *Cormoran* in the middle of the bay and thick smoke rises above the eastern horizon. That must be the *Irene* due to-day from Hongkong.

BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS IN SOOCHOW.

BY THE REV. T. C. BRITTON.

I remember to have made the unguarded statement once, that there were no benevolent institutions in heathen lands, overlooking the fact that other motives than love to God and Christian love to one's neighbour may be sufficient to actuate people in the establishment and maintenance of such enterprises. Three or four years ago I asked my teacher to write an article on the benevolent institutions of Soochow, and this paper is a translation of the account that he gave. This shows that benevolent work is really being done, whatever may be the motives. So we see from this work that the law of benevolence is written in their hearts. It is remarkable how much the Chinese have learned, through their reasoning powers, of their duty to their fellow-men. But, on the other hand, there is in it all the momentous defect, that they fail to recognise God. Not even do they recognise their own gods. I was told in one of these institutions that, if there were no God, the work would be carried on just the same. As is plainly stated in the paper, their highest aim in doing this is to benefit the people, having no regard for God's will in the matter, nor recognising His blessing in enabling them to do it. When we notice how the writer courts for his people the praise of the reader, and contemplate how much of this good work must be done through that all-pervading motive of the Chinese—securing merit—we conclude that very little, if any, of it remains to be done purely for the good of the people even. Their mercenary spirit also shows itself even in these enterprises, in that fees are charged in so many instances, where they claim that it is benevolence.

The question arises, should we as Christians contribute to their support, when called upon? When two men, who were evidently opium-smokers, came to me not long since to ask for a contribution, I was tempted to cease giving to them altogether. But the men, in two institutions that I visited, seemed to be temperate; so that, perhaps, only a small percentage of those employed are addicted to that habit. And, in view of the fact that they are really helping the needy, the main objection to our contributing is the idea that they have of gaining merit thereby. And even that objection may be overbalanced by the opportunity that we would have in making a contribution, to make clear to them the falsity of that idea, and that we do it as the servants of Jesus and for the glory of God.

(Translation.)

The benevolent halls of Soochow stand as a forest in abundance, their number not being easily estimated. The officials and people together contribute all that is expended in each institution. This work was originated for no other purpose than the benefit of the people. In every institution an elder is appointed. This man is recommended to the officials by the gentry, and then appointed by the officials. Furthermore, superintendents of departments are employed, numbering ten or more at

the establishment is small or large. The regulations are different in different institutions, but the financial affairs are all under the control of the elder. I will now write about some with which I am acquainted, being as follows:—

育嬰堂 ESTABLISHMENT FOR REARING CHILDREN. (FOUNDLING HOME, Yü-ying-t'ang.)

This is located in the 中由吉巷.

Any family residing within the city or without that is too poor to rear their children, may bring them in infancy (both sons and daughters) to this institution. Wet nurses having previously been employed, the children are fed and clothed as well as if they were in their homes. They are cared for till they are six or seven years of age and then the elder is invited to examine them. In the case of boys, their calling is decided according to their mental ability, either to become scholars, or business men. In the case of girls, after they reach the proper age, they are carefully married off.

(If a family that is without offspring wishes to adopt one of those children they can do it by contributing to the institution several thousand cash, or several dollars. Then the child may be taken home by the family and regarded as a son or daughter.)

Certainly this is the first benevolent hall. Its regulations are strict, while loafers and idlers are not allowed to intrude.

REMARKS.

I was in this institution a few days ago, and was kindly received by one of the superintendents of departments. The office shows signs of being a place where much business is transacted. Over the door is a large tub in which the infants are placed by those that bring them. In this receptacle the babe remains till some one inside is awakened by its cries. They report eight hundred children now. All of them are kept, not in the building, but in the homes of their nurses, except in the case of a few sick ones. One of these infants was brought into the office while I was there. It was warmly dressed and carefully carried by its nurse. The elder is a wealthy man and has his residence on the Poh Ka (North Street). The superintendents of departments live in the institution, while their families dwell elsewhere. It is said to have been established two hundred years ago.

(Translation.)

丰備倉 GRANARY PREPARED IN PROSPERITY. (Feng-pei-ch'ang.)

This is situated at the 北傳芳巷口.

In the granary are stored away thousands of piculs of rice, which have been bestowed by the officials and people, to be distributed to the poor in case of famine. In this institution are elders and superintendents of departments that control affairs. There are twenty or more rooms in the granary. This is also done in the way of preparation for a rainy day.

昌善局 ABUNDANTLY BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION. (Ch'ang-shan-chü.)

The Ch'ang Shan-chü is located in the 中由巷二門口. The gentry

and wealthy families have contributed some thousands of mow of land which can be rented out for the support of this establishment. Inside are porticoes, observatories, towers, and corridors, delightful indeed to look upon. Whenever a death occurs, and the family is not able to bury their dead, they may deliver the corpse into the temporary charge of this institution, only a certain annual deposit fee must be paid. This fee, in the case of wealthy persons, is some tens of dollars; in the case of the poor it is different; a few dollars or some hundreds of cash will suffice. If at the end of the year they are still unable to bury, they may let the coffin remain there yet longer. Having this

institution, the unpleasantness of the deed being uninterred can be avoided. Who would say that it is improper to call it Abundantly Benevolent?

改過局 THE REFORMATORY (Kai-kuo chū).

Is located in 王發基, and was established by an official. The high authorities appoint an expectant official to attend to its affairs. Offenders and unscrupulous villains whose offences are a degree lighter than that they should be imprisoned, are put in the Reformatory, with the hope that they will reform—be thoroughly aroused to the consideration of their former wickedness,—and do well. The expenses of the institution are met by the Provincial Governor, all expenses for provisions being paid through the deputy. The regulations of the establishment are very strict. Idlers are scarcely allowed to enter.

安節局 PEACEFULLY CONTINENT

INSTITUTION (WIDOWS' HOME—An-chi-chū).
REMARKS.

I also visited this. There are about twenty superintendents of departments, and two hundred inmates. A great many ancestral tablets and idols are kept, for the widows who come to make this their home bring them along. They also bring their smaller children. At this place as well as at the Yō-ying-t'ang, they insisted that they were doing the same work that we are doing as missionaries.

(Translation.)

The above Home is on 新橋巷. The widows, young or old, of any family of Soochow, rich or poor, who are continent at home, and dislike their houses on account of their being small, or very inconvenient on account of neighbouring men going in and out, may move into this institution to live. Furthermore, they may remain there unmarried indefinitely. And the superintendents of departments, porters, etc., of the establishment are all aged and circumspect.

棲流所 LODGING PLACE FOR OUTCASTS.

(WANDERERS' HOME, Ts'i-lin-so.)

This is in 王發基, and was established by an official also. All among the people who are poor, without employment, afflicted, and homeless may dwell in this institution. The beggars, both old and young, may go out and beg in the day and lodge there at night. So that the miserable among the people may not be deprived of a dwelling place. Is it not a good thing?

集善局 THE COLLECTING BENEVOLENT
INSTITUTION, Chih-shan-chū.

Is on the 紫蘭巷, and devotes itself to gathering up written paper. They have bought of the timber dealers thousands of thin boards, and nailed them up at the entrances of alleys and streets, so that proclamations and handbills may be pasted on them, and not be blown off and destroyed by wind and rain. The supplies of the institution are both furnished and managed by the people.

普善堂 UNIVERSAL AID ESTABLISHMENT.
(THE GREAT ALMSHOUSE—P'u-shan-t'ang.)

The Almshouse is outside the 閶門, and devotes itself to receiving the poor and afflicted. The expenses are met by monthly contributions from all the shops. Those who are poor and have no one to depend on, although they are not afflicted, may also be cared for in the institution to old age. In winter, porridge and clothing are furnished, so that those who are suffering from hunger and cold may all be blessed by them. The purpose of those who established this institution was to furnish universal aid to the people. Therefore it is called "Universal Aid Hall."

洗心局 INSTITUTION FOR CLEANSING THE HEART (Hsi-hsin-chū).

The officials, at the petition of the gentry, established this. Wherever there are young men who are living in debauchery and riot, and indulging in every kind of wickedness, so that they become reckless law breakers and rowdies, ungovernable either by their parents or elders, they may be brought to this institution, that they may cleanse their hearts and reform. Upwards of a thousand cash, however, must be paid for board, monthly. It contains many buildings, and each man has a room, shut and locked securely. They cannot go out and in at will. Moreover they are not allowed to smoke opium. If, after remaining over a year, one has reformed, he may, with the help of a bondsman, come out.

There is also a public school in the institution, where the boys of poor families may devote themselves to study without paying tuition.

官醫局 THE OFFICIAL HOSPITAL.

(Kuan-i-chū.)

Is at the head of the Pingchiao Bridge 平頭橋, south of 王發基. This was established by the officials, and is devoted to healing the sick. In it physicians are employed for clinical practice; also for practice among women and children. The sick of poor families may be brought for treatment, the entrance fee being only fifty-six cash, (say 1½d. sterling) medicine included. The officials pay the expenses of the institution. Furthermore, in summer, tea is placed at the door, with which the passers-by may quench their thirst. The explanation of this also is the love of the officials for the people.

THREE EMPIRES.

We who live in the Chinese Empire do not as a rule feel that we have any special interest in the dominions of Muzaffar-ud-Din, the Shah of Persia. To us that country seems what the late Thomas Taylor Meadows used to call "ten-thousand-miles-off." Reuter seldom mentions it. Home papers do not refer to it at much length. Yet there is a good deal about Persia that suggests China, as was remarked by some of the British Legation when Peking was first opened to diplomacy. Some of us remember to have read in the fascinating volumes of the late Sir Thomas Wade, that the Chinese word *po-li* for glass is a Persian term. Application to the nearest sinologue with a turn for linguistic roots would furnish many others. This shows that when overland travel was the rule, much must have come into China by the back door. We are fond of remarking that the political state of China is far from satisfactory. But in Persia things are in definitely worse. Whoever has taken the trouble to look through the interesting travels of Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishopp in Eastern Persia, knows what a ferment that part of the empire is kept in all the time. In the more recent and thoroughly trustworthy volume of Mr. Wilson on *Persian Life and Customs* reviewed in these columns within a year or so, the same fact is clearly to be discerned. The truth is that Persia is on the edge of a volcano. The Shah is the victim of an incurable disease, and is almost certain not to have a long reign. He has not yet been upon the throne two years, and the mere rumour of his visiting Europe has been sufficient to cause riots, and the gravest anxiety to the Government, only quieted by his appearance in public. His father was one of those curious products which result from the violent impact of the West on the East. He was a highly educated and widely travelled Barbarian. Like some other lands of more importance in the

world at large, Persia is the victim of an ecclesiastical tyranny of the most deplorable sort. The Mahomedan religion is there bigoted and intolerant to a degree scarcely to be found out of Arabia. The Shia sect swear by Ali, and by his son Hassan who was Mahomed's uncle, and who married his daughter Fatima. The two sons of Ali, Hassan and Hosein, were killed, and are regarded as martyrs, their death being celebrated in the turbulent Moharrem festival over many Mahomedan lands. To an outsider it almost seems as if this incident of the seventh century was not at present a live issue, but the Shia sect considers it a vital matter still and will do till the end of time. The Shia fanatics will suffer no improvements in Persia which interfere with their interests, as Mr. Wilson showed in a most convincing manner from the history of the great Tobacco Monopoly, and related incidents in which the government was almost wrecked, and a vast amount of British capital permanently disappeared. Corruption, lying, and thieving prevail to an extent unheard-of even in China, where all things are done in accordance with *Li*, or Reason. What can we think of a postal system where the officials themselves deliberately steal stamps off the letter and then throw the letters into the waste basket? Yet this is Persia. Let us in China rejoice that our troubles with stamps are confined to getting those with too little gum-arabic on their backs—doubtless owing to the poverty of the government, and the pressure of the Japanese indemnity. Persian misgovernment is so bad that the Persians themselves are thirsting for the coming of the Russians. Russia has already annexed a large part of what was once Persia, and she is waiting for the rest. We now hear that large bodies of the ancient Nestorians have abandoned their immemorial faith, and have been received with open arms into the Orthodox Greek—or rather Russian—Church, whence they will by no means find it easy to secede. There are perpetual troubles on the frontiers of Persia and in many of its provinces. Always there is the omnipresent Russian Consul. He threatens that if order is not restored within a certain number of days, or hours, he will call in the Cossacks. "The Cossacks" are always on the Russian border waiting to be called in. Once in, they have to remain to preserve that order which without them is hopeless. The end of that road we all know. At the other end of the Asiatic continent is China. She is not yet reduced to the straits of Persia, which seems liable at any time to extinction. All that even now prevents it is Great Britain. The interests of the mother-of-us-all in man are great, but they will not avail apparently to save Persia. The same Power which threatens Persia also threatens China. We have seen the velvet claw. It advances quite gently. It only desires Order and the highest interests of the Nest Of Mice. These it cheerfully "guarantees." It desires merely a Sphere of Influence in the Nest. It is not after Mice—merely a port or two, and a place in which to warm its claw during the cold weather, "Only this, and nothing more." Where is Great Britain?

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MARK TWAIN AND THE GERMAN LANGUAGE.

Mark Twain, who has been staying at Vienna for some months, was entertained on Sunday evening by the members of the Concordia, a Club of Viennese journalists and *littérateurs*. He seized the opportunity to expound his views on the German language to a German-speaking audience. It will be seen from the report of his speech which we give below, that years have moderated his reforming zeal, and that he no longer advocates the abolition of the vocabulary with the exception of "Zug," "Schlog," and a few other words which he admitted, in the *Tramp Abroad*, to be necessary.

Mark Twain began, in English, by thanking the members of the Club for their cordial reception. Then, to the great astonishment of those who were not in the secret, he plunged into German. He drew a manuscript from his pocket and proceeded to read the following speech in the German language and a strong English accent:

"Please excuse me for reading what I want to say. I don't speak German well, though many people who know the language have assured me that I write it like an angel. May be I do—I don't know. I have had no acquaintance with angels up to now. That (and Mark Twain pointed upwards) comes later on, if it please God; but there is no hurry. I have long had a passionate desire to make a speech in German, but I have never been allowed to do it. People without any feeling for art have always placed obstacles in my way. They said: 'Keep quiet, *Hochwohlgeboren*! Try some other way to make yourself a nuisance.' I had considerable difficulty in getting permission to make this speech. The Committee at first wouldn't allow me because one of their rules is to protect the German language. But I pointed out that I had no desire to injure the German language. On the contrary, I only want to improve and reform it. This has become the dream of my life.

"I have already called on several German government, and offered to contract for the work. All I want is to introduce a few alterations. I want to tone down the wanton luxuriance of the construction, and destroy the undulating parenthesis. I propose to forbid the employment of more than thirteen subjects in one sentence, and to bring the verb nearer to the front, so that it can be discovered without using a telescope. In short, I want to simplify your beloved language, and I implore you to be guided by me. Let you only carry out these reforms you will have a splendid language. A few days ago the correspondent of a Vienna paper got out a sentence containing 112 words. There were seven parentheses in it, and the subject was changed seven times. The poor old persecuted, exhausted subject had to climb around seven times in the course of a single sentence! Then I want to reform the separable verbs a little; and when all these reforms are accomplished the German language will be the noblest and finest on earth!

"Herr Pötzl (the writer of a humorous sketch of Mark Twain) has been trying to make the public believe that I came to Vienna to block the bridges and interfere with the traffic by making notes. You mustn't take any notice of what he says. My motive for standing on the bridges is perfectly blameless. They provide the room I want for my German investigations. I use the parapet for spinning out German sentences. I put the first part of a separable verb on one end of the parapet and the second part at the further end, and build up the body of the sentence between them. The bridges of this city are mostly long enough

for this; but when I want to study Pötzl's writings I have to go on that lordly interminable bridge the Reichsbrücke. However, that's a slander; Pötzl writes very good German; not so fluent as mine, perhaps, but a good deal better in many details—excuse these flatteries, they are well merited. Now I will wind up—I mean, I will bring my speech to an end. I am a stranger, but in the friendly atmosphere of Vienna I had quite forgotten it. Please accept my heartiest thanks."

The speech excited great laughter.—Translated from the *Neue Freie Presse*.—G.A.R.

ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S MOUNTAINS. "THE BUFFALO."

(Conclusion.)

Facing us is the "Hump" topped by a heap of granite, and at its base a morass lies in readiness to catch unwatchful eyes. Around are the usual rocks of granite, some of which are of very peculiar shape. One resembled a mighty eagle preparing to swoop on its prey, another is similar in outline to a tortoise and another from its likeness is termed the "Cathedral Rock," and so on. It is wonderful what magical effects tea has upon one, especially if made in a billy, for ere long we are buzzing about as fresh as colts who have not yet felt the pressure of a saddle. Two of our number are throwing off their superfluous energies in practising the last style from the Wrestling World, while the rest of us charge the scrub on the stupendous slopes of yonder mount. A tough climb through the bush, a scramble over the rocky boulders and we are alongside the Cairn on top. A fine outlook greets us of miles and miles of peaks, rocky pinnacles, and mighty forests of greenness and beauty which show up well against the lustrous light of a gorgeously coloured sky, for the autumn day is quickly closing, and "All the West is hung with banners, white with golden, crimson, blue." In that fair clime of the South it is not an uncommon thing to see the Sun King take his departure in the richest of raiment, but rarely, if ever, have I seen a finer sunset than on that occasion, and never will I forget the bright, golden light that flashed from the mountain peaks and scintillated and sparkled through the leafy glades of the forest. Back once more to Camp, when the billy is coaxed once more to boil its contents and then the evening meal is partaken of; after which all is bustle as we collect enough dry wood to keep our camp fire alight for the night, for at this high altitude coldness comes on with hours of darkness. We then ensconce ourselves as comfortably as circumstances will permit around its genial blaze, whose lurid glare casts its shadows far into the dead timber around, making the naked branches of the forest giants of a century ago look like a mighty host of skeletons who for a brief period had left the grave to do us honour. Pipes and cigars are set agoing, while B—(who does not hail with pleasure the weed of solace and consolation) reads to us a tale of adventure and exploration in a mountain region such as the one we then inhabited. Later on the book is put away and stories rich and rare are indulged in, recitations are given, and an occasional burst of song resounds through the distant glades and is wafted on the evening breeze to the heights above.

At 10.30 we adjourned from our social gathering to the tent and are now doing our best to ingratiate ourselves into the good feeling and friendship of "Balmy Sleep" but "Nature's sweet restorer" is of the opinion that to rest properly one must have room, and balked against seven individuals sleeping in an eight-foot tent,

had her spite by keeping the most of us awake the greater part of the night. Not a sound seemed to break the monotony except the rustling of the leaves outside, or an occasional tingle of the bell around Rosie's neck—the pack horse. Venus, like the sainted star that she is, did her best to brighten the gloomy hours by giving us the benefit of her cheerful light, but to no purpose. At length, just as the dawn of day was beginning to lighten the eastern hill tops, we slipped one by one into sweet oblivion and did not wake till the sun was well up in the heavens.

Despite our curtailment of sleep, we are up with the liteness of the hound. A dip into an icy pool followed with the generous services of a rough bath towel we are soon aglow, and in a very few minutes are ready to do our share in polishing off the contents of that frying pan, which is frizzling and singing to itself over the flames, for the ladies being out of the way for once, collars and starched shirts have been left at the foot of the mountain; brushes are also conspicuous by their absence and as for a looking-glass, well! I do not think there was such a thing on the "Buffalo," unless you can see your face in yonder rock which flashes back the reflection of the sun so vividly that you could be excused for making the comparison.

Breakfast being over we make a start for the Peak or Horn. Threading our way through a picturesquely-wooded glen, our ears are greeted on all sides by the singing and cawing of birds, for our old friend the crow is greatly in evidence and seems determined to run the choir by drowning completely the voices of the rest. However at intervals can be heard the beautifully clear soprano notes of the Lyre bird—Australia's sweetest singer—as on some distant mound in the brushwood, it trills forth to the world its morning hymn of praise.

Continuing our way up a beaten track which winds along the foot of the hills, through bush and vale, over level ground and morass, we make our way till the towering heights of the Peak are just above us. Entering the gloomy shades of the bush at its foot, we are soon once more amongst the rocks, but the ascent was comparatively easy, as a party of surveyors who had been up some time previous had collected the smaller pieces of granite rock and formed steps at the most difficult places. Just before reaching the top we come to two immense rocks so placed that not more than one at a time can pass between them, here again the thoughtfulness of the surveying party has been exposed, for a regular staircase has been made out of the rude products at hand. Clambering up this, we round the rock on the top, holding on firmly as the sloping nature of the rock on which we have to trust ourselves would put you with no gentle hand into a yawning chasm if at all careless in your footsteps. A little farther on we have the assistance of a small hand rail which enables us with little exertion to climb up the slippery surface of the summit, and in a minute or two we are alongside the cairn on the top of the "Horn," the highest peak of the "Buffalo," 5,750 feet above the level of the sea.

What a magnificent panorama opens itself out before us as having steadied ourselves against the fresh breeze of the morning we look down upon the world around us. The great plains of Wangaratta and Oxley are beneath us, we can mark out the townships and settlements scattered at intervals over their surface, and can follow distinctly the hills that encircle them. Lake Winton with its flashing, sunlit waters can be clearly discerned in the vicinity of far distant Benalla. Away in another direction Mounts Baldy and Feather-top raise their princely heads far above their brethren, and farther to the north-east stand Kosciusko and Bogong, whose giant heads tower high above a host of cones and pinnacles that are

grouped around them. Intervening between these, and the small space of rock on which we stand is range upon range of thickly-wooded hills, dark dells, and shady valleys, looking fresh in their garb of green. It was a picture that one could long gaze upon and the longer you looked the more enchanted you became. There is a great amount of sublimity in mountain scenery and when looking from one of their lofty summits your whole being seems stirred up with the ennobling thoughts that influence you through their agency; they indeed have a feeling, and one must be of a most peculiar disposition who can roam through a mountainous region without becoming conscious of the frailty of men, and awed by the all-powerful presence of the Almighty.

"Not vainly did the early Persian make His altar the high places and the peak Of earth-o'er-gazing mountains."

Leaving our aerial position we descend to the bush below and wend our way back to camp, before reaching which we have a slight adventure. On the way up we passed through a herd of cattle peacefully browsing on a fine bit of grassy plain; at that time they took no apparent notice of us, but it seems that they hastily convened a meeting and had determined on a frolic, for on our return they immediately down with their heads and with tails in the air charged directly for us. We of course being unarmed and unprepared for the onslaught took to our heels some of us looking for a friendly tree into whose branches we could swing ourselves. However, a heap of stones bring us up and turning speedily to the right about we give our enemy granite which stop their mad career and eventually concludes in their utter defeat. Safe back in Camp once more, we repeat the process of making tea and partaking of cold victuals, and then start off for the "Leviathan Rock" which is situated in a secluded glen not far distant. Making our way through the bush amidst wild flowers of every conceivable hue and shade of colour scattered about in delightful confusion, we at length reach the base of this gigantic rock, which is of granite, greatly resembling an immense ship in shape and most wonderfully poised. B— was very desirous of taking a photograph of it, which from its position—on the edge of a wild looking gulley—was very difficult to do, but his inventive skill and energetic spirit won the day, for manufacturing a rough but serviceable platform between the branches of an old tree, the camera and its appendages were inserted thereon, and all being in readiness we place ourselves in suitable positions in front of the rock and had our photographs taken with it as a background.

Once more and for the last time back to Camp, where bidding farewell to our friends who were staying a day or two longer, we set off at a smart pace for the foot of the mountain and did not draw rein until within sight of the Font, where we take a short spell and then proceed to the foot, re-appearing on our host's verandah in a condition the very opposite from freshness, for we have done the distance of ten miles between us and the Camp in very quick time and consequently were somewhat fagged.

The rest of our time was spent amid the forests of the lowlands, where with breech-loader in hand we had some excellent sport in the way of shooting, and were also shown some of the beauty spots of the district, the principal one of which, "The Ladies' Bath," I will describe. Following the course of a beautifully-wooded glen, where the musical murmurings of the Eurobin Creek make a pleasant accompaniment to the lively buzz of insect life around, we at length reach the Falls, and rounding a rock we come upon all at once the object of our visit—a most romantic looking spot.

The Bath is a pool of the clearest water situated at the foot of a precipitous rock, over which the upper waters of the Eurobin throw their silvery contents, which splashing into the pool find their way from thence down its rocky bed to the lower levels. Standing a few paces back we are able to take in the somewhat hidden glories of this picturesque spot. At our feet is a fine sheet of water, which from the nature of its surroundings is of a greenish hue in colour. It is bordered on three sides by stupendous walls of granite and in front by numerous boulders of large dimensions. Above us towers the "Buffalo," for hundreds of feet you can follow its rigid outline till it seems to touch the very heavens. To our left is a broad space of naked rocks, over which a mountain stream has spread its waters, which under the reflection of the orb of day gives it the appearance of a large glacier. The country around is densely wooded, the dark foliage of which blending well with crystalised waters and bare rocks puts the finishing touch to the scene. From whence it derived its name I know not, nor have I by enquiry been able to determine; all kinds of possible conjectures spring up in your mind as being a reasonable cause for the donning of such an appellation, but surmises are often very far from the truth, so we must leave the query as it stands.

A few more sunny hours spent in the shady glens and green pathways of the wildwood; a few more pleasant experiences of moonlight strolls under the tall eucalypti, and the time has come to retrace our footsteps to the busy scenes of city life, and to partake once more in its din and excitements. So eleven o'clock one splendid morning finds us saying good-bye to our hospitable friends who had given us such an enjoyable time, and driving to Porepunkah we are soon again in the rear of our old friend the iron horse and have our last farewell look at the majestic heights of the grand old mountain, as we hurriedly pursue our way towards the distant plains of Wangarratta.

PAKEHA.

THE ROUND-THE-WORLD CYCLISTS.

It is now definitely settled that the three round-the-world-cyclists will be in Shanghai on the afternoon of December the 23rd. At Wuhu they bid good-bye to the Yangtze and strike across country towards the Ta-Hu lake which they will skirt, and reach Soochow on the 20th inst. Coming down from Hankow Mr. Lowe had an attack of ague, so that he had to return to that town for a couple of days. Mr. Fraser rode alone down to Kiukiang on the river side. Two nights he slept in a small sampan. On the day he reached Kiukiang a desperate gale was raging and he was blown off the embankment. The latest advice is that the trio are in good health, though they feel cold acutely at nights as, of course, they travel with a minimum of luggage and sleep in sheds or any hovel they can find.

It is proposed that the cyclists of Shanghai, ladies as well as gentlemen, shall meet Messrs. Fraser, Lunn, and Lowe at Jessfield, and escort them into the Settlement. The meet will take place at 4 p.m. on the 23rd, and an "Express" will be sent out on Thursday morning, whether any change is made in this arrangement or not. It is further proposed, as will be seen in the advertisement on our front page, to entertain the cyclists at a public dinner during their stay in Shanghai.

CYCLING IN ENGLAND.

The October meeting of the Council of the National Cyclists' Union, held last Saturday, was the occasion of the passing of a new rule to deal with the question of road-racing in this country. Only a partial blow was struck, as the decision arrived at was that in future no licensed rider, either amateur or professional, should be allowed to take part in a road race or in a paced record attempt. This leaves the field open of course, for unlicensed riders, and even the licensed may be paced in time trials so long as the trial is not a record attempt. That is to say, so long as a man in a private time trial falls short of the current record he escapes. This action is already causing a good deal of dissatisfaction among the numerous clubs that hold occasional road events.

On the eve of the passing of this new rule, two brilliant road records by paced and licensed riders were accomplished under the old conditions that now no longer obtain. One of these was the riding by the celebrated professional, A. A. Chase, of a hundred miles on the road on an out-and-home course, in the marvellous time of 4h. 16m. 35s. He missed the fifty on the way, owing to the break-down of his pacers, who failed to put in an appearance at the appointed spot, but his machine stood the severe test without a hitch of any sort. The other record was by a new man about as little known as Chase is widely famous. And this new man did a most remarkable ride, as with very indifferent pacing he beat the record over the main Western highway in England, from London to Bath and back by about 18 minutes, doing the 212 miles in 11h. 48m. 42s. These rides at the far end of October, when the early morning is shrouded in heavy mist and the unavoidable town stretches of the routes are covered with a thick coating of greasy mud, are performances of a first-class order of merit.

Chase, on missing the fifty, at once decided to make another trial, but the intervention of the Union has put a stopper on his plans, as if he defies the Union rule, he will be barred from all racing either at home or on the Continent under N.C.U. Rules, or in America, where he is about to undertake a racing tour. A further quencher to the aspirations of road men to speed on the road is to be found in the fixing of Ernest Gould, who recently broke the world's 12 hours record on the road. In the course of this event Gould had to pass through a town called Sleaford, and was careful to go through it at a very reasonable pace. The police, however, produced the published evidence of his having ridden for twelve hours at an average speed of 19½ miles an hour all the way, and argued that he must have been riding furiously. Gould offered no defence, although the police afterwards admitted that they could not have identified him, and the case might have been very well fought on the lines that there was no danger where there was no public, a plea that has been previously successful.

The most prominent figure on the Metropolitan race path, J. W. Stocks, has finally decided that the scenes of his past triumphs shall know him no more, for he has definitely abandoned cycling racing after an exceptionally brilliant career, terminating in a season's victories of a most remarkable character, inasmuch as they comprise record form at such varying distances as a quarter of a mile and six hours. Stocks to-day holds records from the flying quarter rightaway to the point where Palmer takes up the running in his 50 and 100 miles scores.

In these autumn days when the feminine heart delights to deck the feminine form with warm and ruddy tints to go ariding in appropriate and picturesque attire, there lurks a danger in brilliant red for wearing on the road. A lady only a day or two ago found herself suddenly the object of attraction to a cow, that evidently disliked the colouring of her blouse, and was proceeding in a very business-like way to remove the offending flaming scarlet from her line of sight. But the lady, foreseeing trouble, made great pace away from the animal, and her speed powers proved more than a match for those of the angry beast, and she risked a charge of furious driving in a successful endeavour to outrun her pursuer.

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Another incident arising out of ladies' dress has some interest. A strong-minded lady accustomed to donning the rational dress was one night unexpectedly delayed before she started for a journey home of some twenty miles absolutely alone in the dark. Although a rationalist, she had something of the native timidity of a woman, and was very nervous as she sped along, but her rationalists stood her in good stead, as whenever she encountered a tramp or passer-by she was saluted with a "Good night, mate," "So long, boss," the speakers being all unaware that the cyclist was not a man. All the same, there are unmistakable signs that the rationalist cause has fewer adherents than ever, and the centre of fashion in dress matters, namely Paris, has set the example of a very general return to the skirt for cycling wear.

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The era of the cycle shows is close upon us, beginning with the *doyen* of them all, the Stanley, which, as the oldest and first, usually attracts the greatest share of attention. Then follows the National Show, of whose management there is sure to be heard a good deal from excluded applicants, as the authorities of this show have barred all American exhibitors. Following these London exhibitions there comes a long run of provincial shows at Leeds, Liverpool, Dublin, Birmingham, Belfast, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Manchester, and by that time the winter will be tided over, and the manufacturer will be glad to quit showing for another season.

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A couple of new lamps are attracting some attention, one is a very brilliant illuminator burning paraffin, with a chimney constructed of a transparent film of mica. Its light is very intense, but it occasionally jacks out on a rough road as the up and down of the lamp creates an excessive draught up the chimney.

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The other new lamp is the Acetylene gas lamp, a novelty which has become the rage in Paris, but is only represented over here by one or two examples at present. It gives the brightest light yet known, but its use is attended with a big risk of explosion, if the lamp is not carefully handled. The small gas-holders somewhat resemble bombs, and prove veritable miniature infernal machines if they do explode, as they have been known to do.

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There is, however, a large number of riders who do not yearn for intense brilliance in the illumination that they carry, and who feel satisfied if a small point of light will give permanent and steady results, for the real use of a lamp is to signal one's approach without dazzling the beholders, and it is really safer to use a small light than a tremendous glare.

London, 5th November.

MR. OTTOMAR HAUPT AND THE BIMETALLISTS.

Mr. Ottomar Haupt in his Paris letter to the *Financial Times*, under date of the 23rd of October, writes:—

Although we here are still without any direct information with regard to the answer given by the English Cabinet to the United States Government concerning the proposals of the American Monetary Commission, we have learned with a great deal of satisfaction from Washington that the Indian Mints will not be re-opened to the coinage of silver, and that no new Monetary Conference will be called together. As to the willingness that appears to have been expressed by the British Government to consider any practical proposals for the establishment of a common ratio between the two metals, it has been received here as an indication that British humour must always exercise its rights. This is, at least, the way in which *Le Temps* looks upon a remark which in reality might have been spared us, and in respect of which the paper adds: "This irony is indeed the *coup de grâce*!" I myself should have believed that at headquarters the fact would have been sufficiently known that France is going to stick to her ratio of 1 to 15½, while the United States will retain that of 1 to 16; Austria-Hungary will go on with 1 to 18.22; Russia with 1 to 23.25, and Japan with 1 to 32.33; while the different countries that have adopted the single gold standard in the course of this year (to which Hayti must now be added) will, by sheer force of circumstance, have to choose the price of silver of the present day for the basis of their new monetary systems. Be this as it may, the bimetallic campaign has now come to an end, and the idea to rehabilitate silver by artificial means may be interred for good. That it would come to this—nay, that a metal that had become the very plaything of speculation and had been quoted with heavy backwardations in all the markets of the world was no longer fit to serve as money, the foremost quality of which must be stability—I have been predicting in these columns for a long time. As to the attacks directed against myself on this occasion by the bimetalists, and by part of the Indian Press as well—attacks culminating in the reproach that the result would be quite different if the circumstances which I described had been altered, and if, for instance, the India Mints had been reopened to the coinage of silver—I may be pardoned if I make light of them. To me it appears that the fact of a tremendous fall in silver at the time when the United States had effected its enormous purchases of 4½ million ounces per month is conclusive in this respect. But these bimetalists, like the Bourbons, have learned nothing, and so it is of no use to discuss with them the really idle question as to what would have happened at a given moment if something else had not happened.

Holloway's Pills and Ointment.—Influenza, Coughs and Colds.—In diseases of the throat and chest, so prevalent in our changeable climate, nothing so speedily relieves, or so certainly cures, as these inestimable remedies. These disorders are too often neglected at their commencement, or are injudiciously treated, resulting in either case in disastrous consequences. Whatever the condition of the patient, Holloway's remedies will restore, if recovery be possible; they will retard the alarming symptoms till the blood is purified and nature consummates the cure, gradually restoring strength and vital nervous power. By persevering in the use of Holloway's preparations, tone is conferred on the stomach and frame generally. Thousands of persons have testified that by the use of these remedies alone they have been restored to health after every other means had failed. (14)

THE BIMETALLIC FIASCO.

Lord Salisbury, being very humorous, might enjoy a laugh at his own expense upon reading the reply of the Indian Government to the bimetallic proposals. It has been the contention of the bimetalists that we need a stable par of exchange between gold-using and silver-using countries, and especially between England and India. This has been Mr. Arthur Balfour's shibboleth from the start, and Lord Salisbury has been so overmastered by it that, even in his final reply to the Wolcott commission, he repeated his hope that some other proposals might be advanced having that end in view. And now the Indian Government tells him that they have achieved their desideratum by stopping the coinage of silver, and that the bimetallic scheme, if adopted, would accomplish what? The rate of exchange would rise 100 per cent at one bound, and trade and industry throughout the Indian empire would be convulsed. This would happen if the aims of the bimetalists were gained. The first of these aims is to make silver and gold exchange with each other at the ratio of 15½ to 1. At the present time they exchange at the metallic ratio of say 36 to 1. The pecuniary affairs of the Indian Government and people adjusted themselves to the present status. Whether it be a desirable one *per se* or not, society is now embedded in it and accustomed to it. The present status has come about slowly during a quarter of a century. The proposal now is to undo it suddenly by artificial means, making every rupee worth double what it is now, and compelling every debtor to pay double what he owes. The changed relations of buyers and sellers, of employers and employes, of debtors and creditors would be immense and instantaneous—that is, if the desires of the bimetalists should be realised. If they should not be realised, something else would happen; nobody knows what. They might be half realised, in which case the rise of exchange would be only 50 per cent.

What next? The Indian Government believes that the rise in value of the rupee under free coinage could not be maintained. The ratio of gold to silver must, after the first spurt, be determined by their respective costs of production. So a reverse movement would begin. Speculators would carry the rate of exchange up in the first instance and down in the second. At present the rupee sells in the market at 16d. English, which is 6 or 7d. above its bullion value. When free coinage was stopped, the rupee ceased to follow the fluctuations of silver. It was slightly affected by them at first, but, as time passed, the influence of the metal became less and less. By and by the law of supply and demand became supreme over the rupee, and since the quantity cannot be increased, its value as coin has risen above its value as bullion to the point originally aimed at by the Government, viz., 16d. In other words, the par of exchange between England and India, which Mr. Balfour and the Manchester spinners have been so long waiting for, has been actually secured. (This fact was shown clearly by Lord Farrer in the *Times* weeks ago.) This boon has been gained by stopping the free coinage of silver. That act cut the ligament which made the value of the rupee the same as that of the bullion contained in it. To restore the ligament, says the Indian Government, would be to drag the value of the rupee down to that of silver after the first upward spurt. It would fall back not to 16d. merely, but to 9d., and this would involve fresh taxation to the amount of many millions to meet the Government's sterling obligations. The rupee would first be shot up to two shillings and then down to 9d., to be followed by endless variations in the future, and all this by way of steadying the par of exchange.

The lecture read by the Indian financiers to the home Government is very droll, but not less amusing is the haste with which the French politicians are running to cover. They were mortally afraid that England would join in a new conference, and do or say something which would compel them to show their hand. No power could have brought France in the last resort to the silver standard or the double standard, no matter how many nations might have joined in the folly, but the present Ministry might have been upset. The present Ministry depends on the agricultural interest chiefly, which has about the same proportion of blockheads that has been observed in Germany and the United States—people who believe that silver demonetisation depresses the price of wheat, people who have their own "crime of 1873" to muddle with. Hence the Ministry must go as far as possible in the direction of bimetalism to satisfy the peasant farmers, but not far enough to overturn the standard of value and lose the gold piled up in the Bank of France. The French newspapers, having no fear of peasant farmers before their eyes, say frankly that they have escaped a great danger and they are extremely glad. Instead of feeling irritation against England for her refusal to join in another international "big talk," they are thankful to her for getting them out of a bad scrape.

The business interests of the United States are under similar obligations. The Wolcott commission represented politics only, and only a small part of that. The real silverites, the party of Byran, had no share in it. A new international conference would have been a damper on them while it lasted. In the improbable event of reaching a bimetallic agreement they would have been out of a job entirely. Their occupation would have been gone as completely as Othello's, and in any event they would have been hushed to silence for a time. They had looked at the Wolcott commission askance from the beginning, because "there was nothing in it for them." The only party, or faction, that had any real interest in it was the small moiety of Republicans who have been playing with silver and depreciated currencies of one kind and another for twenty or thirty years. They were pretty well weeded out in the campaign of last year, but there are some left, and President McKinley is one of them. They, too, ought to be grateful to England for letting them out of a bad scrape, since a new failure in a new international conference, coming on the eve of a new Presidential election, would have been a powerful weapon in the hands of the Bryanites.—The N. Y. Nation.

THE RISE OF THE JAPANESE NAVY.

Mr. Charles Cramp, of the great Philadelphia shipbuilding firm, has been making a tour of the European shipyards, with the special object, apparently, of learning the truth about the progress of the Japanese navy. But he finds that the word "progress" is altogether inadequate to describe the situation: Japan suddenly appears as "a cyclone in a smooth sea of commonplace progress." Here is the situation as summed up by Mr. Cramp in an interesting and important article in the October number of the *North American Review*:—"Japan is not only building more ships than any other Power except England, but she is building better ships in English shipyards than England herself is constructing for her own navy. While other nations proceed by steps, Japan proceeds by leaps and bounds. What other nations are doing may be described as progress; but what Japan is doing must be described as a phenomenon. She is now building:—(1) Three 14,800-

ton battleships, which are well advanced at Armstrong's, Thompson's, and the Thames Ironworks respectively. (2) One battleship of about 10,000 tons, commencing at Armstrong's. (3) Four first-class armoured cruisers of 9,600 tons displacement and twenty knots speed: two at Armstrong's, one at the Vulcan Works, Stettin, and one at the "Forges et Chantiers," France. (4) Two 5,000-ton protected cruisers of about twenty-three knots speed: one at San Francisco and one at Philadelphia. (5) One protected cruiser of 4,300 tons, and about twenty-three knots, at Armstrong's. (6) Four thirty-knot torpedo-boat destroyers at Yarrow's. (7) Four more of similar type at Thompson's. (8) Eight ninety-ton torpedo-boats at the Schichau Works, Elbing. (9) Four more of a similar type at the Normand Works, France. (10) Three 3,000-ton protected cruisers of twenty knots, three torpedo gunboats and a dispatch vessel at the Imperial Dockyard, Yokosuka, Japan. (11) A fifth armoured cruiser of the type already described (9,600 tons and twenty knots) to be built at Yokosuka. This is Japan's naval increase actually in sight. Excepting the ships building at Yokosuka, the whole programme has come under my personal observation. Comparison with the current progress of other Powers discloses the fact that Japan is second only to England in naval activity, being ahead of France, much in advance of Germany, and vastly in the lead of Russia and the United States. It must also be borne in mind that the new Japanese fleet comprises throughout the very latest and highest types of naval architecture in every respect of force, economy, and efficiency."

In the Chino-Japanese war Japan captured with her unarmoured cruisers the Chinese battleship *Chenyuen*, 7,400 tons, and the *Pingyuen*, an armoured coast-defence ship; and to these she has already added five sea-going vessels of 32,000 tons total displacement, including the two first-class English-built battleships *Fuji* and *Yashima*, of 12,800 tons each; and when the present programme is completed Japan will have a total effective force of sixty-seven sea-going ships, twelve torpedo-catchers, and seventy-five torpedo-boats, with an aggregate displacement of 200,000 tons. At the end of the Chinese war, which seems only the other day, Japan had a total displacement (leaving out Chinese prizes) of 64,000 tons. It is no wonder that Mr. Cramp declares such an advance to be a phenomenon, a miracle, a cyclone!

What will she do with it? Mr. Cramp thinks that the Japanese preparations are not aimed against the United States—at least, not primarily. It is true the Hawaiian affair has given rise to some irritation, but its importance has been systematically exaggerated by the English Press. The Power whose supremacy, in the Pacific, Japan intends really to challenge is Russia, whose Trans-Siberian Railway, when completed, will at once make her a great Pacific Power politically and commercially. In a word, "Japan's purpose is the general one of predominant sea-power in the Orient." She meditates a renewal of her efforts to establish a footing on the Asiatic mainland—possibly she has in view the ultimate acquisition of the Philippine Islands. In view of this Mr. Cramp asks whether Russia and the United States are prepared or are preparing to meet such conditions and to "maintain their proper naval status," and he answers in the negative: "In the race for naval supremacy in the Pacific, Japan is gaining, while Russia and the United States are losing ground." In three years Japan will be able to dominate the Pacific against either of these Powers, and in less than ten years against both!

Further than that, they are not theoretical sailors; they have had practical experience of carrying on a successful war, sinking or taking the ships, bombarding the towns, and forcing the harbours of their

enemy, "I do not know," says Mr. Cramp in conclusion, "how others may view this sort of disparity in experience; but in my opinion it is the most portentous fact in the whole situation."—*St. James's Budget*.

Law Reports.

H.B.M.'s CIVIL SUMMARY COURT.

Shanghai, 13th December.

Before R. W. MANSFIELD, Esq.,

Assistant Judge.

PAFFS v. MURRAY.

This was a judgment summons against R. Gordon Murray for an amount of \$91.28. Plaintiff did not put in an appearance.

Defendant, sworn, said circumstances had altered since judgment had been delivered in the case, and he was now unable to pay. He was living at 59, Rue Montauban. He was in business, and was now depending on commission. Until he received a certain commission he would not be able to pay the instalment due on the judgment. He had no property that execution could be given on.

Since judgment had been given he had received \$3,000 commission on paper, but his receiving that amount depended on the issue of the Bennertz case, and whether the British authorities would enforce a contract made with the Chinese. He had earned nothing in hard cash since he was last before the Court. His personal living expenses were being found by some Chinese for whom he was working, but a clause in an existing agreement disallowed the payment by the Chinese of witness's back debts. Witness was incurring no debts at all.

His Honour adjourned the hearing *sine die*.

FRAMJEE, SORABJEE AND CO. v. MURRAY.

This was a judgment summons for \$20.17, against R. Gordon Murray.

Mr. Framjee said he had made application to defendant for the payment of the amount for which judgment had been given. Defendant had frequently put witness off on such occasions, and payment had not been made.

Defendant said the present debt had been incurred when an understanding regarding salary had existed between him and a former compradore of his, now dead. He would be unable to settle the debt until Chinese New Year, after which he could settle.

His Honour adjourned the hearing *sine die*.

WOO SAN-ZAI v. BIDWELL.

This was a claim against G. D. B. Bidwell, for \$6.90, wages due for twenty-six days in October, and for \$16.83, for goods supplied.

Plaintiff said he was defendant's cook and claimed twenty-six days' wages for October last, having left defendant's employ on the 26th of October on account of some business which required his presence at home. He provided a substitute and told defendant he was going, having previously obtained leave, which was granted. \$16.83 of the amount claimed was for marketing. Defendant's "boy" had told witness that a substitute would not be required.

Ching Chao, cautioned, said he was an assistant cook at the Club Concordia. Had gone to defendant's house on the evening of the 26th October, when he was told by defendant's "boy" that his services would not be required, and the "boy" refused to take him to defendant.

Defendant said plaintiff had asked for three days' leave, which was granted on condition that he supplied a substitute. No substitute appeared, and defendant was absent for exactly a fortnight. The marketing bill witness did not dispute.

His Honour said leave of absence had apparently been obtained by plaintiff, but the evidence of defendant's "boy" would have to be obtained on the point as to whether admission to a substitute was refused.

Plaintiff said he had obtained leave for three days, but had remained at home for twelve days. His home was at Ningpo.

His Honour said that on plaintiff's own evidence regarding his taking more leave than was granted, and as the substitute evidently had taken no trouble to see defendant, judgment would be given for the defendant, the marketing bill, however being admitted to be due to him.

H.B.M.'S POLICE COURT.

Shanghai, 13th December.

Before H. E. FULFORD, Esq.,
Police Magistrate.

R. v. DORAN.

Robert Doran was charged with being drunk and incapable in the Sailors' Home on the 11th inst.

Mr. James Eveleigh, Superintendent of the Sailors' Home, said the accused was drunk, lying on the floor, shouting, and generally creating a disturbance. Witness had him taken to the police station in a 'ricksha.

His Worship imposed a fine of \$5, with the alternative of a week's hard labour.

AT THE FALL OF THE LEAF.

Why do the leaves fall? "Bless me, I don't know," you answer: "I suppose because it is one of nature's arrangements."

Precisely; but why did nature so arrange? Why not have summer time always, with perpetual foliage? What is the meaning of denuded branches, withered flowers, daylight fading in mid-afternoon, and winter's cold and desolation? When you find out why the leaves fall you will have discovered one of nature's deepest secrets—why men die.

Suppose we try an easier problem. Why should Mr. William Steel have written such a sentence as this?—"At the fall of the leaf every year I got into such a state that I took no pleasure in anything."

No doubt there are minds so highly strung as to feel keenly the influence of outward conditions, changes of the weather and of the seasons, and so on. But they are rare, and for practical purposes they ought to be rare. Our friend Mr. Steel, happily for him, was not one of them. All the same he was a miserable man every time the leaves began to rattle to the ground.

Here's the way he puts it: "At the fall of the leaf every year I felt languid, tired and weary, and took no pleasure in anything. I had pain and fullness at the chest and sides. Then there was a horrible pain at the pit of the stomach, which nothing relieved." Now this sort of thing would spoil a man's pleasure any time of year, but the oddity in Mr. Steel's case is that it always coincided with what you may call nature's bedtime.

"After a few months," he says, "the pain and distress would be easier for a while, but as autumn approached I became as bad as ever. In September 1890, I had an unusually bad time of it. I couldn't touch a morsel of food, and presently got so weak I was unable to stand on my legs. Every few hours I had to be poulticed, the pain was so bad. I went to bed and stayed there for a week, with a doctor attending me. He relieved me a little, but somehow he didn't succeed in getting to the bottom of my ailment."

That may be, but it doesn't quite follow that the doctor was in the dark as to Mr. Steel's ailment. He might have understood it right enough, yet failed to cure it because he had no remedy for it among his drugs. That happens all the while. Still, the reader may ask: What's the good of knowing the nature of a complaint if we possess no medicine to cure it? There you have us; no use at all, to be sure.

Well, Mr. Steel goes on to say: "For some time I continued very feeble, and was hardly able to walk across the floor. If I

took a short walk I felt so tired and done up I didn't know where to put myself. This was year after year for six years.

"Finally I read about the popular medicine called Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and made up my mind to try it. So I began and kept on with it for some time. The result was that the pain left me, and my appetite waked up, and my food tasted good and digested well; and presently I was strong and hearty as ever. That was three years ago, and the trouble has never returned. (Signed) William Steel, Hambleton, near Oakham, Rutlandshire, December 5th, 1893."

Mr. Steel is grocer and postmaster at Hambleton, and his case is well known there. His complaint isn't hard to see through; it was indigestion and dyspepsia. But why did it come on only in the autumn? What had the fall of the leaf to do with it? Let the reader study on that point.

Meanwhile it is a comfort to know that Mother's Seigel's Syrup will cure it no matter when it comes on.

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BIRTHS.

At Shanghai, on the 11th of December, 1897, the wife of Dr. W. SCHRAMMEIER, of a son.

At 23, North Szechuen Road, Shanghai, on the 13th of December, 1897, the wife of G. WALLACE, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On Tuesday, the 7th of December, 1897, at the Union Chapel, Chefoo, by the Rev. E. Tomalin, the Rev. CALVIN WIGHT, of the American Presbyterian Church, to Miss IDA JEAN EMERICK, of the China Inland Mission.

DEATH.

At the General Hospital, on the 16th of December, in the morning, BENJAMIN B. C. POWELL of Philadelphia. Deeply regretted.

PASSENGERS.

DEPARTED.

Per str. *Mirzapur*, for London—Misses D. Wallace, J. Branscombe, and J. Hoskyn, Surgeon-Major Heuston, and Mr. J. H. Craven. For Hongkong—Messrs. Tong Kut-hing, F. N. Firth, Chan Lok-quai, Bornemann, and Ting.

Per str. *Belgie*, for San Francisco—Dr. and Mrs. A. L. Shapleigh, Misses Murdoch, S. F. Hinnan, and A. Chapin. For Yokohama—Misses M. S. Hampton, and M. Scott, Mrs. C. P. Draper, and Mr. H. Kessler. For Nagasaki—Miss Sinclair, Rev. G. F. Draper, and Mr. Chang Tso-fan.

Per str. *Saghalien*, for Yokohama—Messrs. Kempe and Courreier.

Per str. *Saikio Maru*, for Nagasaki—Mrs. Otagama, Mrs. Faltenberg, Bishop Cousin, Fathers Raclet, and Gracy, Messrs. S. Tooma, R. Otsura, Tong Wo-kung, Chang Yung-kee, and Nakamura. For Kobe—Messrs. Y. Usui, C. Machida, Hatano, S. ye. Chong-wo, R. Watanabe, D. Kawada, and J. Yamaouchi. For Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McLean and child, and Mr. Ah-su.

Per str. *Fushun*, for Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Wood and 2 infants, and Mr. Lake.

Per str. *Poyang*, for Hankow—Captain L. Hughes, Messrs. G. Hays, and H. J. Everall.

Per str. *Wuchang*, for Amoy—Mr. A. E. Jones.

ARRIVED.

Per str. *Saghalien*, from Marseilles—Revs. Gracy, Rigault, and T. quiet. From Colombo—Mrs. David and 3 children, Mrs. Saultier, Messrs. Payal, Castelet, and Wayne. From Singapore—Messrs. Marangoni, Bogliano, and Siva. From Hongkong—Messrs. Y. Usui, Machida, da Silva, Kawada, Watanabe, Kuhn, and Nilsen.

Per str. *Satsuma Maru* from Japan, etc.—Messrs. J. A. Ballard, K. Olinouye, Currie, T. Utsumomiya, G. A. Shufeldt, T. Nishimura, and H. Ohmi.

Per str. *Salazie*, from Yokohama—Messrs. Apulastre, and Cantten. From Kobe—Mrs. Varrevo, and Mr. Su Yen.

Per str. *Belgie*, from Hongkong and Amoy—Count A. von Butler, Mrs. Miss, and Master Connolly, Dr. and Mrs. Anderson, child and servant, Rev. G. H. Bondfield, Lieut. T. Connelly, U.S.A., Messrs. Marquardt, and G. Gray Donald.

Per str. *Choysang*, from Hongkong and Swatow—Dr. and Mrs. Glendenning.

Per str. *Pekin*, from Ningpo—Rev. A. Elwin.

Per str. *Wuchang*, from Taku and Chefoo—Misses Hunt, Armstrong, and Cranston, Messrs. W. S. Ward, Barry, Poate, Powell, Deinderfer, Oloterman, Ohewell, Chang, Robe, Bessal, Yang, and Amy.

Per str. *Sual*, from Hankow—Mrs. T. Stevens.

Per str. *Hsingü*, from Tientsin—Mrs. Petersen and child, Messrs. C. E. Ayre, and (3) Liddell. From Chefoo—Mr. M. Lindskog.

Per str. *Fooksang*, from Foochow—Mr. Wheen.

Per str. *Kiangyung*, from Hankow—Mrs. Johns, Messrs. James Ware, E. Reynolds, and F. Mori.

Per str. *Pekin*, from Ningpo—Rev. J. Goddard.

Per str. *Kutwo*, from Hankow—Dr. Rankine, Messrs. De Lait, and Sterling.

Per str. *Ella*, from Hankow—Miss L. H. Gaynor.

Per str. *Tatung*, from Hankow—Mrs. Tokmakoff, Miss Startseff, Messrs. Pugh, Inglis, and Burtenshaw.

Per str. *Kiangteen*, from Ningpo—Mrs. Deighton Braysher, and Mr. J. Heap.

Per str. *Kiangfoo*, from Hankow—Rev. F. R. Graves, and Mr. Moorehead and daughter.

Per str. *Changon*, from Hankow—Messrs. Empereur, and Mobsby.

Per str. *Pekin*, from Ningpo—Mr. Croker. Per str. *Chungking*, from Tangku and Chefoo—Mrs. Fiske, Misses Hoff, (2) Baller, Walker, Parkhill, Buyers, Andrews, Folliot, and Melcuos.

Per str. *Kiangtuen*, from Ningpo—Mr. Hutson.

Per str. *Hoihow*, from Swatow—Messrs. Blampied, and Simpson. From Amoy—Mr. Ward.

Per str. *Suico*, from Hankow—Count and Countess du Bezaure, Capt. Knights, Revs. G. L. Pullan, and D. Entwistle.

Per str. *Lienshing*, from Tientsin and Chefoo—Rev. and Mrs. Hogg and 3 children, Mrs. Gray Owen and 2 children, and Mr. Chan An-ko.

Per str. *Paohua*, from Hankow—Mr. and Mrs. Hutton, Dr. Worth, and Mr. M. Guinness.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Day of Month.	Barometer.		Wind.		Hygrometer at 9 a.m.		Thermometer in shade.		Initials.
	Bar.	Therm.	Direction.	Force.	Dry bulb.	Wet bulb.	Max.	Min.	
Dec. 11	30.43	32.0	N.W.	4	32.0	32.5	48.0	31.0	O.
12	30.35	31.0	"	3	31.0	froz 37.0	27.0	27.0	B.
13	30.29	42.0	"	3	41.5	40.0	42.0	35.0	O.
14	30.34	35.0	N.W.	3	37.6	34.5	42.0	34.0	B.
15	30.40	35.0	"	2	35.0	32.0	41.6	30.0	B.
16	30.47	34.5	"	3	34.0	33.0	41.5	32.0	B.C.
17	30.41	40.0	"	3	39.5	36.5	40.0	34.0	O.

EXPLANATION.

Initials:—b. blue sky; c. clouds; f. fog; h. hail; l. lightning; m. misty (hazy); o. overcast (dull); r. rain; s. snow; t. thunder; z. calm. Force from 1 to 12; estimated.

PRICE OF THE NORTH-CHINA HERALD and S. C. & C. GAZETTE.—Per Annum, Taels 12; Six Months, Taels 6.50. Three Months, 3.50—all payable in advance. Credit price, Tls. 13.15 per Annum. Subscriptions will be considered as renewed unless notice to the contrary be given before the expiry of the current term.

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Avoid low-priced brands from which the cream has been abstracted, and ask for the "Milkmaid" Brand, the best for all purposes.

21st May, 1897.

Health for a Shilling,

BY THE USE OF

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS!

If your Liver be sluggish take Holloway's Pills. Should your Stomach be deranged, these Pills, if taken, will act like a charm. Is your Blood impure? here again is your remedy.

In the hand-to-hand struggle for existence, in the present day, good health is everything; when it is lacking all enjoyment is excluded, and competency is too often reduced to poverty. Holloway's purifying, digestive, and laxative Pills are admirably adapted for restoring soundness to invalids, whose functions are so feebly or irregularly performed that life itself seem most precarious. The Stomach has its many maladies removed by a judicious use of the Pills,—the torpid Liver is roused by them to active secretion,—the Kidneys are kindly encouraged to greater activity,—the Bowels are gently stimulated, and every other organ subserving digestion is placed at its natural standard and better fitted for its duties.

The old, the young, the rich, the poor, whether soldier or civilian, who may suffer from the consequences arising from over-indulgence at the table or otherwise, will find that, if health can possibly be restored, these patent Pills (taken according to the printed direction) will prove their infallibility.

The Friend to All.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT.

Has there ever been a malignant sore, an old ulcer, or a wound of any kind to which this unrivalled "Heal all" has been applied in vain; "certainly not," answer grateful thousands. Even those ulcerous sores arising from nameless causes which sap the very existence of the young and strongest, and which a course of Mercury can never cure, always yield to the influence of this renowned Ointment, when preserverly used in conjunction with the Pills.

For aches or pains, contracted and stiff joints,—for coughs and colds (which latter often settle upon the chest, producing fatal consequences) let the afflicted parts be effectually rubbed with the Ointment, as salt is into meat, and a certain cure will only be a question of time and patience.

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

Subscription Tls. 24 per annum.

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AND

SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

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Shanghai, 1st October, 1897.

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AKNHOLD, KARBURG & Co.,
Agents.

For the LONDON ASSURANCE CORPORATION,
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28de-97. 942 Shanghai, 14th Sept., 1898.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co. Piece Goods Trade Report of 16th December.)

PIECE GOODS.—Money is coming in rapidly and the market, so far as that goes, is greatly relieved and much anxiety has been alleviated, but, with the Northern markets now closed to trade, it cannot be expected that clearances will show any improvement or fresh business of importance entered into from stock. Several re-sales of bankrupt stock, it is true, are reported this week amounting to some 500 packages, but at prices which cannot be considered to fairly represent the market, so we refrain from quoting them. They have certainly had a weakening effect generally, but in times like these every one must work for himself and not stop to consider the common welfare. Otherwise spot transactions have been very circumscribed, as the dealers do not appreciate yet the decline that has taken place in Exchange, a penny, or three per cent, during the week. Some are offering to buy forward, or for delivery after China New Year, but holders are not much inclined to entertain the business, unless very substantial bargain money is paid. At the prices offered the inducement certainly does not seem good enough, and one would think it better to wait until the ordeal of the annual settling is over to see how the dealers come out, for all of them are more or less involved and may be only buying now to reduce their averages, so to speak; it certainly cannot be safe to sell now except for cash, to meet any immediate and legitimate consumptive demand. Judging by the Auctions the present demand cannot be very strong, for, despite the decline in sterling rates, prices in many cases were lower this morning, but, considering the quantity offered, this was not strange.

As regards the outside markets Ningpo is more active, and a better demand for Yarn, for Szechuen chiefly, has been experienced. Politically there is no change in the situation, the air being still full of rumours and every one is anxiously waiting for something to turn up.

The Market in MANCHESTER is decidedly steady, and some surprise has been caused here by telegrams received from thence that a large business is being done for SHANGHAI. It is difficult to believe, and we have failed to get any confirmation of what might be called a "large business." Certainly some buying has been indulged in, but it must have been greatly exaggerated. Cotton according to the public telegrams is 3¹/₂d., but private advices make it 3³/₄d., and add that the estimates of the Crop have reached nearly 11 million bales. Offers to do business at lower prices have been received from the STATES, but so far as we can learn nothing has gone through.

Grey Shirtings.—8.4 lbs.—The transactions reported this week consist chiefly of the resales mentioned above, which we do not quote, the only sale from first hands, apparently, being a small lot of *Man and Horse* at £1.76. Auction prices are slightly higher on the average.

Light Weights.—These were decidedly weak at this morning's sale, 6-lbs. declining three candareens and all except the best 7-lbs. were lower.

Heavy Weights.—Sales of some 5,000 pieces are reported, but more than this has been done, those quoted being 10-lbs. *Elephant and Clock* at £2.40 and *Blue Dragon* at £2.97¹/₂, 12¹/₂-lbs. *Uncorn* at £3.32¹/₂ and 13 lbs., same chop, at £3.38. A little has gone through for delivery after China New Year, but as a rule holders prefer not to sell on those terms. A resale is mentioned of 5,000 pieces *Seven Girl* at £2.52¹/₂, they cannot be laid down here now under £2.75. Auction prices are mostly two to three candareens higher.

12-lbs., 36-inch.—A small sale is published of *Two Soldier* at £3.02¹/₂. At Auction the tendency was rather weaker.

White Shirtings.—No sales reported from stock. A small forward business has been done. At Auction the commonest 64-reeds only showed any improvement, the others being one to two candareens lower. The 72 and higher reeds improved all round, with the exception of one chop.

T-Cloths.—Nothing reported privately in any make. The few *English* offered at auction advanced slightly.

Jeans and Drills.—There is nothing to report in either make.

Sheetings.—The only sale mentioned consists of a few *American*, the *Langley A* cloth, at £2.85.

Fancy Goods.—There seems to be absolutely no movement in this department of the trade at present, unless it is simply of a retail character. Some *Black Cotton Italians* were sold at the Auction this morning, most of them realising much better prices than they did two weeks ago.

Woollens.—These continue without any attention privately, and at Auction the course of prices is very unsatisfactory. *CAMELS* are slightly better for *Scarlet* but all other colours are down. *LONG ELS* weak and *LASTINGS* two mace lower for the higher reed. *SPANISH STRIPES* irregular as usual, but the tendency is downwards.

Cotton Yarn.—*English.*—Business has been done in these Spinnings but particulars are withheld. *Indian.*—A good enquiry from SZECHUEN and the River markets, assisted by the easier terms on which holders have been willing to trade, has led to a large business this week, chiefly in No. 20s. at a decline of a tael per bale for that count, 10s. and 16s. being unchanged. Settlements amount to 4,858 bales, as follows:—

No. 10s., 180 bales—*Jamshed Mule* £59.00, *Indo-China* 59.75/60.00 and *Currimbhoy Ring* £66.25.
No. 12s., 45 bales—*Currimbhoy Mule* £67.25.
No. 16s., 383 bales—*Indo-China* £66.00, *Macagon* £66.75, *Hope Mill* £67.00 and *Currimbhoy Mule* £70.00.
No. 20s., 4,250 bales—*Pero* £68.00/68.50, *Vuhaldas Copaldas* £68.25, *City of Bombay Mule* £69.50/68.00, *Bhudi Mule* £69.00 *Jafferalli Mule* £69.00, *Jamshed Ring* £69.00/69.75, *Ripon Ring* £69.50, *Hope Mill* £69.00/70.00, *China Mill* £69.50/70.00, *Empress Spinning* £69.25/69.50, *Imperial* £69.50/69.00, *Malakshami 5 Old Man Mule* and *Anglo-India* £69.50, *Malakshami, 5 Old Man Ring*, £69.75, *Amjad Bagh*, £69.75, *Star of India, Ring*, £70.00, *Anglo-India, Ring* £70.00, *Goolambaba* £70.25, *Tea Carrier* £70.00/70.50, *James Greaves* £70.50, *Jubilee, Ring* £70.50/71.00, *Connaught* £70.25/70.50, *Motillall* £71.50, and *Ripon, Mule* £70.00 and £74.25.

There have been no arrivals but the s.s. *Chusan* and *Java* have left HONGKONG with 4,516 and 2,686 bales respectively.

Japanese.—The demand has been better for these Spinnings also and prices have gone up with the advance in the Exchange to Japan two and-a-half taels per bale. The stock is much reduced as some 1,600 bales have been reshipped by Importers to CHERPOO and other markets. Sales amount to 1,450 bales, as follows:—

No. 16s.—320 bales, *Elephant and Pagoda* £66.00, *Man and Fish* £66.25, *Blue Fish* £65.50/67.00 and *Gold Elephant* £67.50/68.00.
No. 20s.—1,130 bales; *Stork* £66.00, *Pheasant* £68.00/67.00, *Two Deer* £67.00/68.50, *Man and Fish* £67.00/69.00 and *Gold Elephant* £68.00/71.00.

Metals.—From Messrs. Alex. Biefield & Co.'s Report of 17th December:—Owing to slightly more favourable news from home, where railroads may be had for 130s., c.i.f., there has been a much increased inquiry in Metals, but a number of causes combine to prevent any actual business. Exchange still fluctuates too much to suit the steadier merchant, though not sufficient to satisfy the gambler, and actual trade has to wait in consequence. The only transaction reported was:—100 tons Cart Tyres at 104s., c.i.f.

In **SUNDRIES** there has been fair inquiry, but the only actual transactions completed, as given below, seem to be to fill orders from up-country, which are gradually commencing to come in. 1,600 piculs Camogén Wood at £2.80, 20 cases Violet, 8-oz., "Double Toy" Chop at £0.27, 100 cases Emerald Green "Bird" Chop at £26.00, 10 cases Cotton Gold Thread at £40.00, 35 cases Hair Pins at £2.80.

Opium.—(Closing quotations):—Malwa (new) £540; (old) £580; Patna (new) £510; Benares (new) £540.

EXPORTS

Silk.—From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular of 17th instant:—

London telegrams to 15th quote a quiet market, Blue Elephants 10/4¹/₂.

RAW SILK.—There has been rather more life in the market lately, and some few transactions have been reported from day to day, mostly for forward delivery, exchange quotations being about 2% per mensem lower for forward transactions. Our quotations below are for three weeks to one month prompt.

For New York via Cape.—Owing to a fresh charter in Hongkong, the *Gerard C. Tobey*, shippers have now an opportunity of obtaining sailer space at 20/- per ton of 40 cubic feet, through rate from here.

For New York via Pacific Lines.—The next sailings are advertised as follows:—

Peru	20th instant.
Braemar	25th "
Empress of Japan	25th "

DEPARTURES.

For London via Suez.—	<i>Formosa</i> s.s., via Foochow, 4th instant.
	<i>Ulysses</i> s.s., via Amoy, 5th "
For New York via Suez.—	<i>Fernfield</i> , via Amoy, 12th "

RATES OF FREIGHT.

LONDON	by Conference Lines, General Cargo	32/6	W. Silk	35/0	Tea	32/6
NORTHERN CONT. PORTS ..	" " " "	32/6	"	35/0	"	32/6
NEW YORK via LONDON ..	" " " "	40/0	"	42/6	"	40/0
BALTIMORE via LONDON ..	" " " "	45/0	"	47/6	"	45/0
KONIGSBERG via LONDON ..	" " " "	40/0	"	42/2	"	40/0
MANCHESTER	" " " "	45/0	"	47/6	"	45/0
LIVERPOOL	" " " "	40/0	"	42/6	"	40/0
HAMBURG	" " " "	32/6	"	35/0	"	32/6

Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference Circular.

HAVRE	by Conference Lines, Tallow	32/6 nett, General Cargo	32/6 nett, W. Silk	35/0 nett, Tea	32/6 nett.
GENOA	" " " "	32/6 " " "	32/6 " " "	35/0 " " "	32/6 " "
MARSHILLS	" " " "	32/6 " " "	32/6 " " "	35/0 " " "	32/6 " "

42/6 per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports.

NEW YORK, by Sail	20/0
Do. via Pacific	1 1/2 gold cts. per lb. Tea, —3 cts. per lb. Silk, —\$9.00 per ton Strawbraud.
Do. via Suez	27/6 per ton General Cargo. 27/6 Tea.
BOSTON	35/0 "
PHILADELPHIA	35/0 "

COAST RATES.

MOJI	TO SHANGHAI	\$1.15 per ton Coal.
NAGASAKI	"	\$1.15 " "
NEWCHWANG	" KOBE	season closed.
	" SOUTHERN PORTS ..	" "
WUHU	" CANTON	15 cands.

Coal.—From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report of 17th inst.

COAL.—JAPAN.—There has been a further improvement in our market, and a considerable amount of business has passed at much higher prices, as we anticipated when last writing; we expect a still further advance, notwithstanding the present low rates ruling, the native demand being very great.

CARDIFF.—There have been active enquiries in this, and sales have been made as high as Tls. 17.00 per ton; it is highly probable that business could not be done even at this figure, as stocks are now very small.

SYDNEY WOLLONGONG.—Offers have been made of Tls. 11.50, but, although this is the highest price ever offered for this coal, it is still unobtainable owing no doubt to tonnage not being procurable. No stock.

Quotations.—The undernoted figures are based on the most recent settlements for cargoes to arrive and do not represent the present market rates for coals in stock, which fluctuate with the supply and demand:—

Cardiff, ex godown	Tls. 17.00 per ton.
American Anthracite, ex godown	12.00 " nominal.
Sydney Wollongong, steamer cargo ex godown	10.50 " nominal.
Otzuji, ex godown	Tls. 7.00 @ 7.75 per ton.
Karatz, ex godown	
Ohnoura, ex godown	
Komatzu "	
Hokoku "	
Ohuonra 3 feet	None for sale.
" 5 "	
Japan, Takasima Lump, ex godown	
" Small "	
Namazuta Lump, "	
" Dust "	None for sale.
Miiké Lump, "	
" Small, ex godown	

Arrivals during the fortnight have been:—

Dec. 6, <i>Dagmar</i> , str.	1,400 tons	Linsi Mixed Coal, to consumers.
" 6, <i>Yungping</i> , str.	700 "	Kaiping Lump Coal, to consumers.
" 7, <i>Tamsui</i> , str.	{ 725 "	Tagawa Dust Coal, to consumers.
	{ 870 "	Kamazuta Dust Coal, to consumers.
" 8, <i>Feiching</i> , str.	856 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to consumers.
" 9, <i>Progress</i> , str.	1,040 "	Fukumo Coal, to native dealers.
" 10, <i>Fujisan Maru</i> , str.	1,830 "	Miiké Small Coal, to consumers.
" 11, <i>Stegfried</i> , str.	1,700 "	Moji Coal, to native dealers.
" 13, <i>Atagosan Maru</i> , str.	{ 312 "	Ichimura Coal, to consumers.
	{ 1,650 "	Miiké Large Coal, to consumers.
" 13, <i>Foochow</i> , str.	520 "	Takao Dust Coal, to consumers.
	1,859 "	Kirigomi Coal, to consumers.
" 14, <i>Sadokuni Maru</i> , str.	1,400 "	Miiké Coal, to consumers.
" 14, <i>Chiyuen</i> , str.	1,800 "	Moji Coal, to consumers.
" 14, <i>Taiwan</i> , str.	1,860 "	Nagasaki Coal, to consumers.

KEROSENE OIL.—AMERICAN.—A very large "spot" business has been put through during the fortnight, sales having been made all the way from Tls. 1.50 to Tls. 1.63, and to-day the market is very strong; the deliveries have been on a very large scale, reaching to a lakh and half. For cargo to arrive, we hear of a fair quantity having been sold at Tls. 1.63 October, November and December sailings. Stocks are now 283,712 cases.

BATUM.—Has not been so much enquired for, speculation in this brand not being strong, and small sales at Tls. 1.50 per case are daily transactions. Stocks 304,000 cases.

LANGKAT.—As there are no stocks of any quantity of case oil there is nothing doing. Stocks 2,500 cases.

Quotations—Devoc's	Tls. 1.65 per case.
Batoum, Anchor Chop	1.62 1/2 "
" Horse Chop	1.51 "
" Bulk Oil	1.35 per two tins.
Langkat	1.37 1/2 "
"	1.50 per case.
" at the Tanks	0.11 1/2 per gallon.

Exchange.—(Closing Rates)—On London—Telegraphic Transfers, 2s. 7½d. & ½d. Banks Bills, 2s. 7½d. & ½d. Banks Bills, 4 months' sight, 2s. 7½d. First-Class Credits to Banks, 4 months' sight, 2s. 8d.; 6 months' sight, 2s. 8½d.; Private and Documentary, 4 months' sight, 2s. 8½d.; 6 months' sight, 2s. 8½d. On France—Bank Bills, Transfer Fcs. 3.31. Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, 3.36½, 6 months' sight, 3.37½. On Germany—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, Marks 2.72, lowest 2.72, highest 2.79. On New York—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, per \$100 G.\$65½, lowest 65½, highest 67½. On Hongkong—Telegraphic Transfers, 73½, lowest 72½, highest 73½ per \$100. Private Bills, 3 days' sight, 72½, lowest 71½, highest 72½. On Yokohama—Telegraphic Transfers, 77½, lowest 75½, highest 77½ per \$100. Private Bills, 15 days' sight, 76½, lowest 74½, highest 76½. On Bombay and Calcutta—Telegraphic Transfers, Rs. 207, lowest 206½, highest 215½ per \$100. Bank Bills, demand, Rs. 207½, lowest 207, highest 216. Bullion—Gold Bars, Shanghai, 98 touch, \$378.00, lowest 360.00, highest 378.00. Silver Bars, \$111.15, lowest 111.10, highest 111.20. Mexican dollars, \$73.9, lowest 73.0, highest 73.9. Carolus dollars, \$97.00, lowest 96.00, highest 98.00. Copper Cash 1.150, lowest 1.140, highest 1.150. Chinese Interest, mace 2.00, lowest 2.00, highest 2.07. Bar Silver in London, per oz. 26½, lowest 26½, highest 27½.

DAILY QUOTATIONS.

(From Messrs. Morriss, Fergusson & Robertson's Circular.)

Dec.	Bar Silver # oz in L'don.	ON LONDON.								FRANCE.		GER- MANY.	NEW YORK.	HONG- KONG.	YOKO- HAMA.	INDIA.
		T/Transfers.		Bank 4 m/s.		Credits 4 m/s.		Docty. 4 m/s.		Francs 4 m/s. and 6 do.		4 m/s. Priv.	Docty. 4 m/s.		T/T:	T/T Rup.
		Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.					
11th.....	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{3}{4}$	2.8 $\frac{3}{4}$	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{5}{8}$	2.8 $\frac{7}{8}$	3.42/3.43	3.44 $\frac{1}{2}$ /45 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.79	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	215 $\frac{1}{2}$
13th.....	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{3}{4}$	2.8 $\frac{3}{4}$	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{5}{8}$	3.42/3.43	3.42/3.43	2.77 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	73	76	214 $\frac{1}{2}$
14th.....	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{3}{4}$	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{5}{8}$	3.42/3.43	3.42/3.43	2.77 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	73	76	214 $\frac{1}{2}$
15th.....	26 $\frac{5}{16}$	2.7 $\frac{7}{8}$	2.8	2.7 $\frac{7}{8}$	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{5}{8}$	3.40 $\frac{1}{2}$ /41 $\frac{1}{2}$	3.40 $\frac{1}{2}$ /41 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.75	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	213
16th.....	26 $\frac{5}{16}$	2.7 $\frac{7}{8}$	2.7 $\frac{7}{8}$	2.7 $\frac{7}{8}$	2.7 $\frac{7}{8}$	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{5}{8}$	3.40 $\frac{1}{2}$ /41 $\frac{1}{2}$	3.40 $\frac{1}{2}$ /41 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.75	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	73	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	211
17th.....	26 $\frac{1}{16}$	2.7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8	2.8	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	3.36 $\frac{1}{2}$ /37 $\frac{1}{2}$	3.36 $\frac{1}{2}$ /37 $\frac{1}{2}$	2.72	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	207

Shares.—From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report of 17th December:—

The supply of money has become larger, but the share market has not greatly benefitted by this during the week, there being but little change in rates, and the business done was small.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Only two transactions are reported, at 175 and 174 per cent. premium, for delivery on the 31st December. The Hongkong quotation is sales at 175 per cent. premium. National Bank shares are offering in the South at \$22.

INSURANCE.—No local business is reported in any of the Marine or Fire Insurance shares. In Hongkong Hongkong Fires have changed hands at \$385, and China are wanted at \$105½.

SHIPPING.—Business has been confined to sales of Indo-China S.N. shares at \$37½ for December and \$39½ for April.

SUGAR COMPANY.—China Sugar Refining shares are quoted at \$157 in Hongkong. Luzon Sugar Refining shares changed hands at \$44

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Shares in S. C. Farham & Co. have been placed at \$165, and are wanted. Shanghai Engineering & Dock shares changed hands at \$85 and \$86 for the 31st current, and Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf shares at \$116 cash. Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown shares are offering in Hongkong at \$59.

LANDS.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were placed at \$90. Hongkong Land Investment shares are offering, in Hongkong, at \$74.

INDUSTRIAL.—Major Brothers shares were placed at \$32. In Cotton Mill shares: E-icos were sold at \$100, International's at \$110 for cash and for the 31st current, and Laou-kung-mows at \$101 cash, \$103 for the 31st December, and \$110 for the 31st March. Soy Chee shares are offering. China Flour Mill shares changed hands at \$68 and 66 cash and \$71½ for the 31st March, and American Cigarette shares at \$90 and \$100.

TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares were sold at \$205 ex the third interim dividend of \$5 paid on the 15th instant. Shanghai Cargo Boat shares were placed at \$190.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were placed at \$82 cash, \$90 for March and \$91 for April, and shares are wanted. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares were sold at \$275 for the 31st current, and \$275 to 285 for cash, with sales for the 31st May at \$400.

LOANS.—A small lot of Shanghai-Langkai 10 per cent. Debentures was sold at par, plus the accrued interest.

LOANS.	Amount of Loan.	Outstanding.	Nominal Value.	Rate of Interest.	When Payable.	Return on Inv. allowing for Amortisation.	Closing %.
Shanghai Mun. Debentures—Issue 1888	£70,000.00	£70,000.00	£100	6 %	Dec. & June.	(g) 4.90%	... (a) nominal.
Do. 1890	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	£100	6 %	Do.	...	...
Do. 1891	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	£100	5½ %	Do.	(g) 5.40%	... (a) £100.00
Do. 1892	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£100	5 %	Do.	...	... (a) £100.00
Do. 1893	£125,000.00	£125,000.00	£100	5½ %	Do.	(g) 5.35%	... (a) £100.00
Do. 1894	£105,000.00	£105,000.00	£100	6 %	Do.	(g) 5.12%	... (a) nominal.
Do. 1895	£115,000.00	£115,000.00	£100	5 %	Do.	(g) 5.00%	... (a) £100.00
Do. 1896	£120,000.00	£120,000.00	£100	5 %	Do.	(g) 5.00%	... (a) £100.00
Lyceum Theatre Debentures.....	£17,000.00	£17,000.00	£25	4 %	24 July 1895	...	... (a) £18.00
Chinese Imp. Government Loan 1886 E	S. £767,200.00	£680,104.00	£250	7 %	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 6.05%	... (a) £275.00
Shanghai Land Inv. Co. Debentures. 1890	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	6 %	May & Nov.	(g) 6.00%	... (a) £100.00
Do. Do. 1892	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	5½ %	June & Dec.	(g) 5.35%	... (a) £100.00
Do. Do. 1894	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	6 %	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 6.00%	... (a) £100.00
Do. Do. 1896	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	5 %	June & Dec.	(g) 4.98%	... (a) £100.00
Shanghai Waterworks Co. Debentures '94	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	£100	6 %	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 5.72%	... (a) £103.50
Do. " '96	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	£100	5 %	June & Dec.	...	... (a) £100.00
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co. "	£400,000.00	£100,000.00	£100	6 %	June & Dec.	(g) 5.37%	... (a) £100.00

AUCTION SALES.

Auctions for the week ending 16th December, 1897, comprised the following Goods:—

For the week.			Previous week.			Corresponding week last year.			For the week.			Previous week.			Corresponding week last year.		
Grey Shirtings	15,400	pcs.	against	14,835	pcs.	and	19,075	pcs.	Velvets.....	30	pcs.	against	30	pcs.	and	144	pcs.
White Shirtings ...	7,220	"	"	5,870	"	"	7,600	"	Velveteens	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
T-Cloths.....	880	"	"	270	"	"	1,462	"	Cotton Italians ...	900	"	"	120	"	"	"	"
Drills, English	"	"	"	150	"	"	300	"	Camlets	380	"	"	450	"	"	820	"
Jeans, "	100	"	"	220	"	"	220	"	Long Ellis	290	"	"	220	"	"	450	"
Sheetings	540	"	"	500	"	"	900	"	Lastings	480	"	"	440	"	"	340	"
Turkey Reds	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Spanish Stripes ...	388	"	"	564	"	"	570	"

At Nis-kee, 11th inst.—

Black Velvets.—30 pieces; 22-in. Lion & Flag £0.15½.

At E-Wo, 15th inst.—

Grey Shirtings.—8.4-lbs.—1,380 pieces; Green Lion £1.65, Red Lion £1.76, Red Crab £1.79½, Blue Crab £1.93½, Red Bell £2.01½, Red Tea Caddy £2.18½, Blue Tea Caddy DDD £2.29½, and Blue & Tea Caddy £2.50½.

10-lbs.—450 pieces; Black Tea Caddy £2.17, Blue Dragon and Shield £2.36, Red Crab £2.34, and Blue & Tea Caddy £2.86½.

11-ls.—300 pieces; *Blue Dragon* and 7 Boys $\text{£}2.71\frac{1}{2}$, and *Blue Dragon* and 5 Man $\text{£}3.00$.

12-ls.—50 pieces; *Blue Dragon* and 5 Man $\text{£}3.17$.

T-Cloths.—7-ls.—350 pieces; *Blue Sun* $\text{£}1.37\frac{1}{2}$, and *Blue Eagle* $\text{£}1.47\frac{1}{2}$.

Jeans.—English.—8-ls.—100 pieces; *Squirrel* $\text{£}2.46$.

At Yuen-soong, 16th inst.—

Grey Shirtings.—6-ls.—1,000 pieces; *Lotus* $\text{£}0.68$.

7-ls.—1,950 pieces; *Blue Britannia* $\text{£}1.49\frac{1}{2}/50$, *Blue 4 Sister* $\text{£}1.60\frac{1}{2}/61$, *Blue 3 Student* $\text{£}1.85/86\frac{1}{2}$.

8.4-ls.—5,260 pieces; *Green 2 Lion* $\text{£}1.51\frac{1}{2}$, *House* $\text{£}1.54\frac{1}{2}/55$, *Double Man* $\text{£}1.53/53\frac{1}{2}$, *Blue Britannia* $\text{£}1.73\frac{1}{2}$, *Blue 3 Students* $\text{£}1.87/87\frac{1}{2}$, *Blue 4 Sisters* $\text{£}1.91\frac{1}{2}/92\frac{1}{2}$, *Blue Double Shield* $\text{£}2.00\frac{1}{2}/01$, *Black Gold 3 Students* $\text{£}2.05\frac{1}{2}$, *Red 3 Students* $\text{£}2.02\frac{1}{2}/03\frac{1}{2}$, *Red Empress Birthday* $\text{£}2.10\frac{1}{2}$, 7 Sisters $\text{£}2.16\frac{1}{2}/17\frac{1}{2}$, 5 Brothers $\text{£}2.24\frac{1}{2}/24\frac{1}{2}$, and 150 pieces 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -ls. 18 Brothers $\text{£}2.31\frac{1}{2}$.

10-ls.—2,100 pieces; *Red Britannia* $\text{£}2.39\frac{1}{2}$, *Red 3 Students* $\text{£}2.39\frac{1}{2}/40$, *Red Emperor's Birthday* $\text{£}2.54\frac{1}{2}/55$, *Red 4 Sister* $\text{£}2.51\frac{1}{2}/51\frac{1}{2}$ and *Painted 3 Literati* $\text{£}2.85\frac{1}{2}$.

10.12-ls.—750 pieces; *Gold Britannia* $\text{£}2.74/74\frac{1}{2}$, *Lily* $\text{£}3.28\frac{1}{2}/28\frac{1}{2}$.

11-ls.—750 pieces; *Painted 3 Students* $\text{£}2.82/83$.

12-ls.—1,260 pieces; *China Square* $\text{£}2.83\frac{1}{2}/84$, *Nine Lions* $\text{£}2.71$, *Soldier* $\text{£}2.82\frac{1}{2}/83$, *Lily* $\text{£}3.18\frac{1}{2}/18\frac{1}{2}$, and *Squirrel* $\text{£}3.15$.

White Shirtings.—64-reed.—2,100 pieces; *House Bright* $\text{£}1.89/89\frac{1}{2}$, do. *Dull* $\text{£}1.88\frac{1}{2}$, *Blue 2 Lighthouse Bright* $\text{£}1.92\frac{1}{2}/92\frac{1}{2}$, do. *Dull* $\text{£}1.89/91$, *Black Gold 3 Students* $\text{£}2.37\frac{1}{2}/39\frac{1}{2}$.

72-reed.—5,120 pieces; *White Gold 3 Students* $\text{£}2.46\frac{1}{2}/47\frac{1}{2}$, *Red 2 Sisters* $\text{£}2.47\frac{1}{2}/48\frac{1}{2}$, *Red 2 Light House Bright* $\text{£}2.48/50\frac{1}{2}$, do. *Dull* $\text{£}2.49\frac{1}{2}/50$, *Red Gold Star, Bright* $\text{£}2.77\frac{1}{2}/78\frac{1}{2}$, do. *Dull* $\text{£}2.77/77\frac{1}{2}$, *Red 5 Star, Bright* $\text{£}2.90/90\frac{1}{2}$, *Painted 4 Sisters Bright* $\text{£}2.66$ do. *Dull* $\text{£}2.71$, *Black Flag Chief* $\text{£}3.02\frac{1}{2}/02\frac{1}{2}$, *Painted Grand Father* $\text{£}3.21$, *Lily* $\text{£}3.41\frac{1}{2}/45$, and *Students* $\text{£}3.90\frac{1}{2}/93\frac{1}{2}$.

T-Cloths.—7-ls.—330 pieces; *Blue 3 Students* $\text{£}1.32\frac{1}{2}$, *Red Double Shield* $\text{£}1.60$, *Red 3 Students* $\text{£}1.60$.

8-ls.—200 pieces; *Painted 3 Students* $\text{£}2.13\frac{1}{2}$.

Jeans.—8-ls.—120 pieces; *Double Squirrel* $\text{£}2.41$.

Sheetings.—14-ls.—540 pieces; *Lion on Cloud* $\text{£}2.84\frac{1}{2}/85\frac{1}{2}$, *Nine Lion* $\text{£}2.75\frac{1}{2}/80\frac{1}{2}$, *Old Man Head B.* $\text{£}2.80$, do. *A.* $\text{£}2.91\frac{1}{2}/92$.

Black Cotton Italians.—900 pieces; *Painted Grand Father* $\text{£}3.60/65$, *Black Flag Chief* $\text{£}3.57\frac{1}{2}$, *Students* $\text{£}3.97\frac{1}{2}/4.00$, *Painted 9 Lions* $\text{£}4.00$, *Painted 2 Sister* $\text{£}4.00/02\frac{1}{2}$, *Gold 2 Light House* $\text{£}4.32\frac{1}{2}/32\frac{1}{2}$, and *Lily* $\text{£}6.00$.

AUCTION SALES OF WOOLLENS DURING THE WEEK.

Chops—	Scarlet.	Dk. Blue.	Dk. G'tian.	Gr. & N. Green.	Orange & Yellow.	Ash & Lav.	White	Purple	Black.	Brown & Mag.	Mauve.	Lt. Gt. Mid.	Sales Pcs.
Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.
Camlets.													
9 Old Man, s.s. n. p. pc.	13.22 $\frac{1}{2}$ /27 $\frac{1}{2}$	12.75	13.05	14.62 $\frac{1}{2}$	13.72 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	12.82 $\frac{1}{2}$	12.40	
Sales, pcs.	70	40	40	10*	10	...	...	...	...	...	10	10*	190
Goose, p. pc.	13.21	...	13.03	...	13.39	...	...	...	...	...	12.85	...	
Sales, pcs.	30	...	20	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	100
Man & Horse, p. pc.	13.23	...	13.10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sales, pcs.	40	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Long Ellis.													
Horse Head, s.d. n. p. p.	6.65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200
Sales, pcs.	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Tiger, c.f. n. p. pc.	5.03/04	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
Sales, pcs.	90	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Lastings.													
Tiger, c.f. n. p. pc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.61	...	...	...	
Sales, pcs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	...	...	...	60
Goose, p. pc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69.5	...	...	...	
Sales, pcs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	30
Ship, g.d. l. p. pc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.22 $\frac{1}{2}$ /25	...	...	...	
Sales, pcs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...	...	...	300
9 Old Man, p. pc.	...	...	10.12 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	...	8.70/77 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	
Sales, pcs.	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	80	...	...	...	100
Spanish Stripes.													
9 Old Man, a.a. n. p. yd.	0.47 $\frac{1}{2}$	0.48 $\frac{1}{2}$	0.46	0.49 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	...	...	0.44 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	0.41 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	
Sales, pcs.	24	6	12	6	...	...	...	...	6	...	6	...	60
Single Phoenix, p. yd.	0.52.1	...	0.51.3/52.4	...	0.49.1	...	...	...	0.44	0.45.4	0.45.6	...	
Sales, pcs.	120	...	42	...	12	...	...	...	6	6	6	...	192
Sea Horse, x.r. l. p. yd.	0.49/49 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	0.51.2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sales, pcs.	60	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Buffalo, p. yd.	0.48.2/48.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sales, pcs.	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Goose, p. yd.	0.47.1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sales, pcs.	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Lion, p. yd.	0.48.1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sales, pcs.	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dragon, p. yd.	0.50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sales, pcs.	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Statement of Imports and Deliveries of Cotton and Woollen Piece Goods for the week ending 15th December, 1897, compiled from the "Customs Daily Returns," Nos. 285 to 290, both numbers inclusive.

RE-EXPORTS AND THEIR DESTINATIONS.

GOODS.	Ningpo.	Wanchow.	Chinkiang.	Wuhu.	Kinkiang.	Hankow.	Ichang & Chungking.	Chefoo.	Tientsin.	Newchwang.	Foochow.	Hongkong.	Japan.	Corea.	Vladivostok.	Local.	Sundries.
Gray Shirtings +	5,660	280	8,470	630	6,685	8,490	...	2,450	35,454	...	330	...	200	...	...	9,000	280
T-Cloths, 32-in.	1,090	350	700	95	610	400	...	2,275	4,060	...	1010	...	...	...	...	800	200
38-in.	290	...	...	...	...	80	...	...	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	600	...
Indian, 32 & 36-in.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,890	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	...
White Shirtings	2,390	100	800	350	2,456	2,750	...	150	9,550	...	80	...	150	...	...	2,500	400
Drills, English & Dutch.	30	30	...	...	15	150	...	90	3,060	...	30	...	450	...	...	600	...
American	75	165	285	75	75	555	...	1,800	9,675	...	15	...	210	...	...	750	...
Jeans, English & Dutch.	140	...	60	...	60	...	...	...	3,790	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...
American	...	...	20	...	200	...	...	200	1,760	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	120
Sheetings, English	60	...	420	360	1,420	240	...	...	4,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	700	...
Indian	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...
American	360	40	20	...	...	...	...	2,235	30,040	...	...	...	...	...	...	900	...
Dyed Shirtings	...	...	1,915	375	...	50	...	...	1,200	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...
Bro. & Sp. S'tings, D. & W.	...	...	...	...	...	130	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
Chintzes	...	...	300	...	...	110	...	...	586	...	...	...	...	...	...	250	...
Printed T-Cloths	...	...	360	60	186	410	...	60	2,009	...	...	...	...	...	...	500	60
Printed Twills	...	...	...	...	...	62	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	350	...
Turkey Red Shirtings	25	25	175	140	290	275	...	275	925	...	110	...	...	...	...	250	...
Velvets	24	...	...	...	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90	...
Velveteens	...	...	...	...	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	...
Handkerchiefs	...	...	...	...	1,360	...	...	200	280	...	200	...	...	...	...	2,500	...
Muslins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...
Lenos & Balzarines	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...
Cotton Yarn, Indian	6	117	1,179	60	429	6,438	480	336	11,979	...	...	...	...	...	...	500	...
English	21	...	5	...	3	69	...	15	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	45	...
Japan	60	21	36	168	564	3,066	...	491	3,384	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spanish Stripes, Woollen	84	18	78	6	54	241	...	...	114	...	24	...	...	...	...	144	33
Cotton	...	...	24	...	54	24	...	120	474	...	...	...	...	...	...	96	...
Medium & Broad Cloths	6	...	...	...	...	62	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	126	...
Comlets	...	30	...	30	140	180	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	200	...
Long Ells	...	...	20	175	180	165	...	...	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	220	...
Castings	20	...	...	...	60	160	...	20	230	...	...	...	...	...	...	180	20
Italian Cloth	30	...	300	90	60	241	...	...	90	...	30	...	...	...	...	200	...
Cotton Lastings & Italians	150	152	1,231	160	460	2,760	50	930	3,303	...	...	...	...	...	...	600	...
Plain & Figured Orleans	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	500	100
Cotton Flannels	980	40	740	120	220	920	...	...	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
do. Japan	...	...	...	60	...	152	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lead-in-Pigs	56	...	29	...	...	...	...	...	127	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Iron, Nail Rod	193	...	861	29	72	...	...	357	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kerosine Oil, American	...	500	9,285	14,757	3,200	8,600	...	28,500	12,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Russian	3,000	1,200	1,500	1,000	800	26,500	...	...	2,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TOTAL DELIVERIES.

TOTAL IMPORTS.

Stocks at date are based on the Chamber of Commerce Returns on 30th June, 1897.

GOODS.	As above.	For the year from 1st Jan. 1897.	Against last year to same term.	For the week.	For the year from 1st Jan. 1897.	Against last year to same term.	* At date Estimated.	Against 16th December, 1896.
Gray Shirtings	77,809	5,496,841	5,204,680	3,670	4,761,330	5,197,345	1,454,179	1,556,834
T-Cloths, 32-in.	11,690	895,149	895,183	1,020	692,046	869,431	256,405	268,873
36-in.	1,010	94,160	108,403	1,197	142,324	154,209	91,197	92,763
Indian, 32 & 36-in.	4,290	240,320	368,411	1,850	323,030	275,438	120,240	52,961
White Shirtings	21,676	1,642,990	1,641,960	1,052	1,592,404	1,971,581	600,973	648,955
Drills, Eng. & Dutch	4,455	276,044	316,918	...	178,866	334,238	76,868	140,918
American	13,680	1,292,658	997,466	10	1,437,746	1,201,912	489,265	178,216
Jeans, Eng. & Dutch	4,350	208,790	151,839	...	224,833	168,780	87,963	54,556
American	2,400	69,615	52,425	...	65,000	62,000	6,700	...
Sheetings, English	7,200	659,168	720,879	...	451,496	1,068,005	89,653	331,765
Indian	100	101,340	112,105	...	24,280	149,071	...	63,264
American	33,595	2,245,122	1,611,455	3,000	2,445,608	2,242,812	1,083,900	808,742
Dyed Shirtings	3,640	171,777	162,961	4,269	162,983	112,272	70,784	...
Bro. & Spot. Shts., D. & W.	330	49,332	46,082	50	36,108	59,025	13,336	21,374
Chintzes	1,246	182,048	166,057	595	234,951	253,852	28,686	68,634
Printed T-Cloths	3,645	512,633	577,172	720	505,724	867,603	429,828	426,239
Printed Twills	412	107,241	144,924	...	115,159	219,530	130,567	88,352
Turkey Red Shirtings	2,490	221,662	221,225	587	129,961	316,518	85,701	189,710
Velvets	174	29,257	30,468	...	29,484	46,166	10,809	22,549
Velveteens	90	10,835	14,142	...	12,513	20,956	12,272	10,333
Handkerchiefs	4,640	418,359	445,319	1,475	277,860	937,284	316,530	468,001
Muslins	100	166,923	163,967	...	146,643	322,542	91,884	107,450
Lenos & Balzarines	100	53,957	36,714	...	49,194	44,987	13,072	20,453
Cotton Yarn, Indian	21,624	610,494	753,232	27,019	601,223	827,989	129,394	128,154
English	174	26,202	25,908	75	18,864	25,311	70,784	7,261
Japan	7,813	139,992	35,153	9,064	171,916	88,497	23,109	27,223
Spanish Stripes, Woollen	763	33,442	35,472	...	35,086	44,729	13,373	13,359
Cotton	738	39,167	33,481	20	28,560	49,805	9,933	21,609
Med. & Broad Cloths	194	22,081	20,762	...	25,477	32,538	14,020	15,961
Comlets	600	45,263	48,312	...	39,445	42,243	11,785	12,853
Long Ells	820	62,349	70,530	...	37,696	72,087	46,135	51,622
Castings	690	66,674	62,048	...	73,525	52,010	41,381	19,009
Italian Cloth	1,041	89,049	66,646	453	102,394	149,657	69,031	50,642
Cotton Lastings & Italians	9,796	928,469	787,549	3,807	1,161,237	1,077,735	535,967	356,411
Plain & Figured Orleans	...	950	795	...	1,563	2,000	4,965	2,806
Cotton Flannels	3,820	84,189	89,099	...	112,764	195,845	101,159	137,072
do. Japan	212	10,211	13,709	340	38,073	24,583	...	...
Lead-in-Pigs	212	54,077	80,629	...	61,227	80,925	750	3,358
Iron-Nail Rod	1,512	135,289	201,128	4,200	119,743	308,647	74,779	114,283
Kerosine Oil, American	77,342	2,659,484	1,833,498	...	3,392,733	2,236,123	283,712	...
Russian	3,600	1,442,515	1,235,373	...	2,156,036	718,471	318,417	...

+ Including English and Dutch 12-lbs. * The daily returns from the Wharves unobtainable.

Exclusive of undeclared Import Carries per *Frisan, Malacca, Peru, Seghalian, Kaiseu, Orestes, Port Adelaide and Coptic.*

Import Carries declared during the interval:—*Belgia, Malacca, Empress of Japan, Trieste, Mascarene, and additional ex Formosa, Olyss, Vindobona, Pyrrhus, Temesi and Ganges.*

SHARES.

SHANGHAI, 17th December, 1897.

SHARES.	No.	Value.	Paid up.	POSITION PER LAST REPORT.			LAST DIVD. & C.			Return on investment on average of 3 years dividends.	CASH QUOTATION	
				Reserve.	At Working Account.	Date.	To Shareholders	When paid or due.	Average dividends for 3 years.		Closing.	Tls.
<i>Banks.</i>												
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Co.	80,000	\$125	\$125	\$7,000,000	\$301,147.90	30-6-97	*£14	16-8-97	\$23.90	per cent.	\$342.50	250.02
Bank of China & Japan Ltd.												
Do. ordinary shares	107,483	£8	£3	.....	£50,886.16	7-31-12-96	none	.....	.....	.....	£5.00	nom.
Do. deferred do.	1,101	£1	£1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19.00	13.87
National Bank of China, Ltd.	40,453	£10	£8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.31	nominal	nom.
Do.	3,818	£10	.....	\$90,000	\$2,599.92	31-12-96	†\$1.18	1-3-97	\$1.20	.....	\$22.00	16.06
Do. Founders'	750	£1	£1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<i>Insurance (Marine.)</i>												
Union Ins. Society of Canton, Ltd.	10,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,980,000.00 (c) \$78,048.54	\$674,784.53	30-6-97	†\$16	15-10-97	\$14.33	6.24	\$230.00	167.90
China Traders' Ins. Co., Ltd.	24,000	\$83.33	\$25	\$1,000,000.00 (c) \$158,393.77	\$351,807.25	30-4-97	†\$5	4-10-97	\$5.00	7.14	\$70.00	51.10
North-China Ins. Co., Ltd.	5,000	£100	£25	\$250,000.00	\$306,487.20	31-12-96	†\$18.18	28-4-97	\$17.06	8.50	.....	200.00
Yangtze Insurance Ass'n, Ltd.	6,948	\$100	\$60	\$450,000.00 (c) \$76,783.70	\$344,185.07	31-12-96	†\$12	30-4-97	\$11.00	7.88	\$140.00	102.20
Canton Insurance Office	10,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,300,000.00	\$4,276.22	31-12-96	†\$6	18-10-96	\$11.00	6.98	\$157.50	114.97
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.	30,000	\$100	\$20	\$10,000.00 (c) \$100,000.00	\$585,932.16	31-12-96	†\$2	27-3-96	\$1.83	10.16	\$18.00	13.14
<i>Insurance (Fire.)</i>												
Hongkong Fire Ins. Co., Ltd.	8,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,021,688	\$304,817.76	31-12-96	†\$22	6-3-97	\$15.02	4.08	\$367.50	268.00
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$20	\$886,850	\$267,134.11	31-12-96	†\$6	1-3-97	\$6.33	5.91	\$107.00	78.11
<i>Shipping.</i>												
H'kong, C'ton & M'cao S.B. Co.	80,000	\$15	\$15	\$609,000	\$29,974.04	30-6-97	*\$7	1-8-97	\$2.12	7.57	\$28.00	21.00
Indo-China Steam Nav. Co.	49,589	£10	£10	\$50,000.00 (c) \$116,629.14	£1,380.16	31-12-96	†\$5.07	2-7-96	\$3.38	9.90	.....	37.50
Douglas Steamship Co. Ltd.	20,000	\$50	\$50	 (c) \$50,684.50	.....	30-6-97	†\$4.00	27-9-97	\$6.00	10.34	\$58.00	42.34
Ch. Mutual S.N. Co. pref. shares.	16,736	£10	£10	.....	.....	.....	*\$3	1-10-97	\$4.22	8.11	.....	52.00
Do. ord. do.	1,231	£10	£10	.....	.....	.....	†\$6	12-3-96	\$3.92	.....	.....	nom.
Do. do. do.	15,505	£10	£5	£212,198.11	£1,490.94	31-12-96	†\$6	12-3-96	\$1.96	7.54	.....	26.00
<i>Sugar Companies.</i>												
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co. Ltd.	5,000	\$50	\$50	.....	\$23,038.29	31-12-96	†\$2	23-1-96	\$0.67	1.86	.....	36.00
China Sugar Refining Co. Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$100	none	\$2,221.08	31-12-96	†\$5.50	29-3-97	\$5.83	3.70	\$157.50	114.97
Luzon Sugar Refining Co. Ltd.	7,000	\$100	\$100	none	\$12,766.38	31-12-96	†\$5	27-3-96	\$2.67	6.07	\$44.00	32.12
<i>Mining.</i>												
Sheridan Con. M. & M. Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$100	.....	\$131,536.34	31-12-96	none	.....	none	.....	.....	2.50
Punjem Mining Co. Ltd.	59,349	\$4	\$4	.....	.....	.....	\$0.20	11-1-97	\$0.07	1.55	\$4.50	3.28
Do. pref. shares.	30,000	\$1	\$1	.....	\$15,657.81	10-9-96	\$0.50	11-1-97	\$0.17	.....	\$1.30	0.95
Jebeu Mining & Trading Co. Ltd.	45,000	\$5	\$5	.....	.....	.....	*\$5	15-10-94	\$0.48	21.82	\$2.20	1.60
Ramb. A'lian Gold Min. Co. Ltd.	200,000	£1	13/10	none	\$6,781.00	9-8-96	\$0.22	26-5-96	\$0.07	0.32	\$22.00	16.06
<i>Docks, Wharves and Godowns.</i>												
Byrd & Co., Ltd., Founders'	200	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	†\$117	29-7-96	\$39.00	.....	.....	nom.
Byrd & Co., Ltd., Ordinary	7,800	\$100	\$100	\$190,000.00	\$11,742.10	10-4-97	†\$12	18-8-97	\$13.00	7.03	.....	185.00
S. C. Farnham & Co., Ltd.	7,500	\$100	\$100	\$275,000	\$18,356.95	10-6-97	†\$12	9-9-97	\$12.67	7.68	.....	165.00
Shai E. S. & Dock Co., Ltd. ord.	6,000	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	85.00
Do. Founders'	200	\$100	\$100	.....	\$14,916.64	10-4-97	None	.....	.....	.....	.....	252.50
H'kong & W'pro Dock Co., Ltd.	12,500	\$125	\$125	\$700,000	\$95,790.92	10-6-97	*\$12	23-8-97	\$25.83	6.35	\$408.25	296.56
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co. Ltd.	15,100	\$100	\$100	.....	\$20,617.91	31-12-96	†\$3.00	20-8-97	\$6.72	5.79	.....	116.00
H'kong & K'loon Wh. & G. Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$50	\$50	.....	\$10,115.41	31-12-96	†\$1.25	9-8-97	\$2.75	4.50	\$61.00	44.53
<i>Lands.</i>												
Sh. Land Investment Co., Ltd.	26,000	\$50	\$50	\$70,000.00	\$1,108.92	11-12-96	†\$13	19-7-97	\$4.17	4.63	.....	90.00
H'kong Land Invest. & A. Co. Ltd.	50,000	\$100	\$50	\$1,250,000	\$56,559.49	31-12-96	†\$12	22-1-97	\$4.00	5.33	\$75.00	54.75
Kowloon Land & Building Co. Ltd.	5,960	\$50	\$30	none	\$266.12	31-12-96	†\$0.50	9-2-97	\$0.77	4.05	\$19.00	13.87
Humphreys Estate & F. Co. Ltd.	25,400	\$10	\$10	\$25,000.00	\$519.29	31-12-96	†\$0.70	23-2-97	\$0.70	7.37	9.50	6.93
<i>Industrial.</i>												
Shanghai Gas Co.	3,000	\$100	\$100	\$100,000	\$13,854.19	31-12-96	†\$6.00	15-7-97	\$14.68	6.51	.....	225.00
Major Brothers, Ltd.	5,500	\$50	\$50	.....	\$2,474.07	31-12-96	†\$1.50	9-12-94	.....	.....	.....	32.00
Ewo Cotton Sp. & W. Co., Ltd.	10,000	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	None	.....	.....	.....	.....	100.00
International Cotton Man. Co. Ltd.	7,620	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	†\$3.50	8-11-97	.....	.....	.....	110.00
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co. Ltd.	8,000	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	None	.....	.....	.....	.....	101.00
Soy Chee Cotton Spin. Co. Ltd.	2,000	\$500	\$500	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	545.00
Yah Loong Cotton Spin. Co., Ltd.	7,500	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100.00
Shanghai Ice Co.	540	\$100	\$100	\$6,800.00	.....	31-10-96	†\$9	12-1-97	\$11.00	9.16	.....	120.00
Shanghai Rice Mill Co. Ltd.	2,000	\$25	\$25	.....	\$775.52	31-12-96	†\$6	24-2-97	.....	.....	.....	28.00
China Flour Mill Co., Ltd.	3,000	\$50	\$50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	66.00
American Cigarette Co., Ltd.	1,500	\$50	\$50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100.00
H'kong Cotton S. W. & D. Co., Ltd.	9,000	\$100	\$20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12.41
Shai Feather Cleaning Co., Ltd.	300	\$500	\$200	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	202.00
<i>Tugs and Cargo Boats.</i>												
Shanghai Tug Boat Co., Ltd.	1,000	\$100	\$100	\$53,000.00	\$818.50	31-12-96	†\$5	15-12-97	\$20.67	10.08	.....	205.00
Taku Tug and Lighter Co., Ltd.	8,600	\$150	\$150	\$1,250,000.00 (c) \$6,061.10	\$7,935.65	31-12-96	†\$7	27-2-96	\$7.67	6.98	\$110.00	.....
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co. Ltd.	2,000	\$100	\$100	\$115,425.39	\$1,403.22	31-12-96	†\$8	2-3-97	\$16.00	8.42	.....	190.00
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co., Ltd.	1,000	\$100	\$100	\$51,152.84	\$1,567.87	31-12-96	†\$9	3-3-97	\$14.33	7.54	.....	190.00
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>												
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	7,200	\$20	\$20	\$20,000.00	\$8,362.17	31-12-96	†\$5.63	26-7-97	\$12.58	4.12	.....	305.00
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.	13,060	\$20	\$20	\$5,485.11	\$80,530.33	31-12-95	†\$1.47	15-9-97	\$7.96	9.70	.....	82.00
Shanghai Langkat Tob. Co., Ltd.	3,980	\$100	\$100	.....	\$199,114.02	31-12-96	None	.....	.....	.....	.....	265.00
Do. New issue	4,000	\$100	\$25	.....	.....	.....	None	.....	.....	.....	.....	nom.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.	1,800	\$50	\$50	\$9,586.26	\$9,751.23	31-12-96	.....	24-4-96	\$4.00	5.28	.....	76.00
J. Llewellyn & Co., Ltd.	1,200	\$100	\$100	.....	\$306.29	31-12-96	†\$7	25-5-93	.....	.....	\$60.00	43.80
Ball & Holtz, Ltd.	6,250	\$20	\$20	\$125,000	\$4,496.49	28-2-97	†\$2	18-10-97	\$3.33	7.80	\$38.50	28.10
A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd.	60,000	\$10	\$10	\$125,000	\$12,159.15	31-12-96	†\$5	22-5-97	\$0.97	8.08	\$12.00	8.76
Reil's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.	8,200	£1	£1	.....	\$47,033	31-12-95	None	.....	.....	.....	\$9.00	6.67
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.	30,000	\$10	\$8	none	\$8,119.23	30-4-96	†\$5	29-6-95	\$0.27	2.63	\$10.25	7.48
Central Stores, Ltd.	6,000	\$20	\$15	.....	\$7,899.84	28-2-97	None	.....	.....	.....	\$13.13	9.68

* For half year. † For year. ‡ Interim dividend. § Final dividend for business year. \$ A deficit. (a) Exclusive of accrued interest. (c) Insurance Fund. (d) Depreciation Fund. (e) Reserve against Exchange and Investment Fluctuations. (f) Bonus. (g) Assuming that they run for the full term. (h) On the 31st December last, there were only £1.10.0 per share paid up, this, with the further calls of £1.10.0 per share since paid, cover the deficit. (i) Cum the right to the new issue at par. For all Dollar shares the exchange is fixed at 73.

J. P. BISSET & Co.